
NAMI Utah's mission is to ensure the dignity and improve the lives of those who live with mental illness and their families through support, education and advocacy.

January 23, 2015

Elected Official:

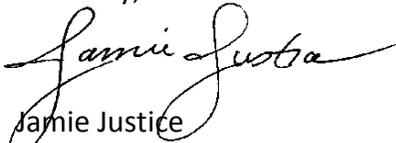
On behalf of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Utah and hundreds of Utahns who are affected by mental illness, I write to you in support of Governor Herbert's Healthy Utah plan. Proper health care is vital for physical health, and we advocate that it is equally as important for adequate mental health care.

We support and advocate for the public policy platform developed by our national NAMI office. NAMI's public policy platform supports health care for all persons with mental illness that is affordable, nondiscriminatory, and includes coverage for the most effective and appropriate treatments. NAMI Utah, in alignment with our national headquarter, supports equal access to affordable health care for every American. Among hundreds of reasons for supporting the Healthy Utah Plan, we'd like to identify the most important reasons to us:

- In 2014, Utah's mental health system was able to help only 30,623 adults out of 105,737 who needed treatment; and 17,905 children out of 83,632 who needed treatment. The Healthy Utah plan will close this service gap.
- 70,000 Utahns bellow 138% of the federal Poverty Level have a behavioral health condition and they would qualify for Healthy Utah.
- The Healthy Utah plan allows access to mental and behavioral health outpatient services to those who are low-income for less than \$5.
- The Healthy Utah plan would allow those with debilitating mental illnesses to enroll in Medicaid's traditional ACO program.

Without the Healthy Utah plan, those affected by mental illness will be left behind. We are counting on your support for the Healthy Utah plan! Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,


Jamie Justice
Executive Director