



**Vision:** *The mission of NAMI Massachusetts is to improve the quality of life for people diagnosed with mental health conditions and their families. We seek to improve the public's awareness and understanding of mental illness and ensure that all people impacted by mental illness receive the services they need in a timely fashion. We do this through our education and support programs, as well as advocacy efforts at the state and local levels.*

## **Legislative Priorities for the 191<sup>st</sup> General Court Session**

NAMI Massachusetts members, staff, and board have identified the following priority areas for advocacy in the upcoming legislative session:

### **Mental Health Parity**

Many of the issues facing NAMI Mass members, such as access to services and behavioral health workforce concerns, could be addressed by strengthening mental health parity in Massachusetts.

- *H.910/ S.588 An Act relative to mental health parity implementation: Rep. Balsler/Sen. Friedman*
- *H.909 /S.590 An Act to require health care coverage for the emergency psychiatric services: Rep. Balsler/Sen. Friedman*

### **Criminal Justice Reform**

NAMI Mass supports efforts to reduce unnecessary arrest and incarceration of persons with mental health concerns and the humane treatment of all persons in the criminal justice system.

- *H.1698/ S.1135 An Act to transfer Bridgewater State Hospital from the Department of Corrections to the Department of Mental Health: Rep. Balsler/Sen. Creem*

### **Children's Mental Health Care**

NAMI Mass supports legislation and budgetary initiatives that will improve the quality and availability of mental health services for children and young adults.

- *H.1736/ S.1154 An Act to protect children's mental health services: Rep. Malia/Sen. Keenan*

### **Housing and Funding for the Department of Mental Health**

We support budget line item **5046-0000** to increase access to affordable housing through the DMH Rental Assistance Program.

NAMI Mass supports the DMH budget funding for vital DMH services.