

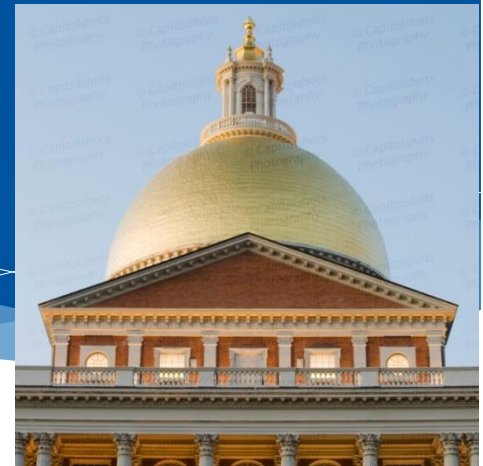
Dream Big  
**Act Now**

Annual NAMI Mass Convention

# State House 101 Webinar

Feb 27, 2019

Lori Krinsky, President, NAMI Central Middlesex  
Monica Luke, NAMI Mass Advocacy Chair



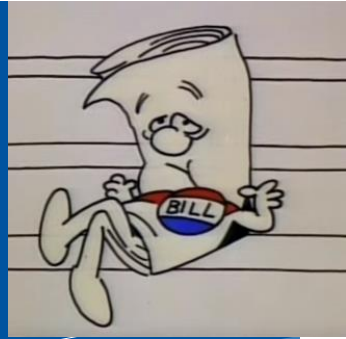


# State House Advocacy Basics

- \* Your legislators WANT to hear from you
- \* You are the expert. Your story helps legislators understand
  - \* Barriers and issues you & your family face
  - \* Gaps in the mental health system
- \* Advocacy draws attention to issues your legislator does not have first-hand knowledge about

*Within this presentation this symbol (+) indicates a time when  
NAMI Mass may ask members to advocate*

# MA Legislative Process



1

**An idea is introduced**

- \* Each legislative session is 2 years long – January of an odd year to July of the following year (i.e. Jan 2019- July 2020)
- \* A bill is filed (or refiled) in the House/Senate by a **sponsor**. Any additional supporters are **co-sponsors**. (+)
- \* About 6,500 bills are filed each session

# MA Legislative Process

1

An idea is introduced

2



Committee Hearing

- \* Each bill is assigned to a committee and by law each bill must have public hearing
- \* Committee hearings feature many bills; they can be several hours long
- \* Legislators, advocates and other stakeholders provide written or oral testimony (+)
- \* After the hearing, the committee votes on how to support the bill

# MA Legislative Process

1

An idea is introduced

2

Committee Hearing

3



## House Ways & Means

- \* Any bill that impacts state finance comes to this Committee
- \* The committee may hold a second hearing, make amendments to the bill, combine it with other bills, or do nothing. (+)
- \* The committee votes on how to support the bill and reports out

# MA Legislative Process

1

An idea is introduced

2

Committee Hearing

3

House Ways & Means

4



**OTE**  
Floor vote

- \* A bill is sent to the floor; it may be debated and amended before a vote (+)
- \* If the bill is approved, it moves on to the next branch to repeat the process

# MA Legislative Process

1

An idea is introduced

2

Committee Hearing

3

House Ways & Means

4

Floor vote

5

Conference Committee



- \* It is common for both the House and Senate to pass different versions of the same legislation. The Conference Committee is formed to agree on one version.
- \* Three members from each branch are appointed by leadership to serve on the Conference Committee
- \* When a final version is reached, it is returned to each branch to vote on without any changes.

# MA Legislative Process

1

An idea is introduced

2

Committee Hearing

3

House Ways & Means

4

Floor vote

5

Conference Committee

6



Governor's Desk

- \* The governor has 10 days to sign, veto or return it with changes
- \* If a bill does not reach this stage it can be **refiled** in the next session



# The Budget (annual bill!)



Sept-Jan

- Agencies, like DMH, submit spending plans
- Administration holds open hearings
- Governor proposes budget priorities, called House 1, by January 4<sup>th</sup>

Budget amendments are  
advocacy opportunities (+)

January

> April

FY 2019 Budget



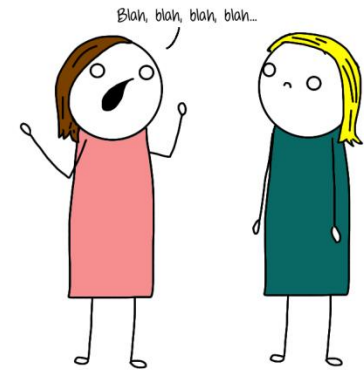


# When to Advocate

- \* Bills, amendments and budget asks go through a multi-step process.
- \* Each time a hurdle is cleared, we need to renew our advocacy – ***success means asking again!***
  - \* Co-sponsors
  - \* Committee members
  - \* Oral or Written Testimony
  - \* Votes & support
  - \* Budget asks & amendments

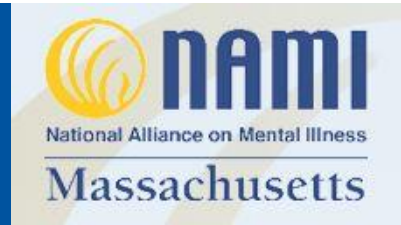


# Ways to build a relationship with your legislator



- \* Find your legislators
  - \* <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>
- \* Call/write to your legislators
- \* Promote your positions through social media
- \* Attend local events – town halls, town meeting, town events
- \* Meet your legislators or with their aides
- \* Testify at hearings

# Challenges to becoming a confident advocate

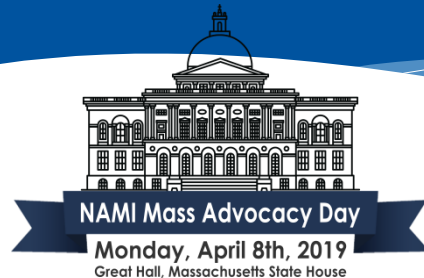


- \* I don't want to bother anyone
- \* I don't want to look stupid
- \* I don't know where to focus or when
- \* I don't know what to say

NAMI can help!

# Advocacy Day

## April 8, 2019



10:00-10:30	Registration
10:30-11:15	Speaker Program
11:15-12:00	Preparing for Advocacy
12:00-12:45	Lunch
1:00-1:30	Visit your Representatives
1:30- 2:00	Visit your Senators
2:00	Bring evaluation form back to Hall of Flags

- \* NAMI Mass provides a packet of materials to assist you
- \* Example Legislative Fact Sheet to “leave behind” with your legislators

## Statewide Behavioral Health Training Program for Police and First Responders

(Senate Bill #1090, House Bill #3257, and House Bill #2401)

NAMI Massachusetts supports the creation of a statewide resource to expand Crisis Intervention Team training, and the establishment of the Criminal Justice and Community Support Trust Fund.

### Overview:

Massachusetts needs a statewide resource for Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and support to improve police response to people with mental health conditions.

### The Need:

- ⇒ Police are the **gatekeepers** of the criminal justice system and **protectors** of public health.
- ⇒ Police training and practices are widely inconsistent across the state – **approximately 75% of police departments have not had CIT training.**
- ⇒ Without appropriate training and procedures, **police interactions can escalate quickly**, especially when mental health or substance use issues are involved.
- ⇒ **Devastating consequences** can result: unnecessary arrest or incarceration, or in the worst cases, injury or death.
- ⇒ In Massachusetts, **50% of county jail and house of correction inmates receive mental health services**; many of these arrests are for minor, “quality of life” offenses.

### The Solution:

A Statewide Comprehensive Training Program will:

- ⇒ Serve as a clearinghouse of best practices in crisis response and de-escalation.
- ⇒ Provide 40-hour **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trainings.**
- ⇒ **Foster partnerships** between police and community organizations.
- ⇒ Provide **technical assistance** to adapt police policies and procedures.

The Criminal Justice and Community Support Trust Fund will create a funding mechanism for these initiatives.

### What is CIT?

A 40-hour interactive training model for first responders that brings together police officers, community organizations, health providers, and individuals and family members with lived experience to improve responses to people in mental health crisis:

- ◇ De-escalation techniques
- ◇ Recognition of the signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use disorders
- ◇ Referral to appropriate resources and treatment

The Criminal Justice and Community Support Trust Fund would allow private grants, public funds, and donations to be collected and leveraged to fund:

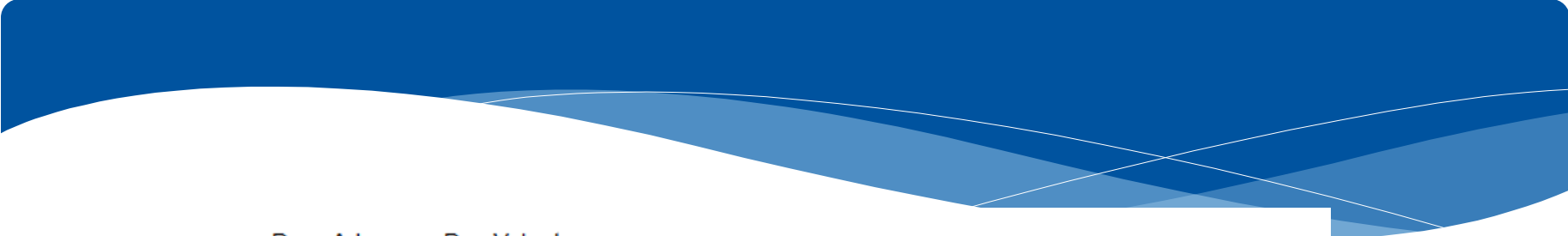
- ◇ Jail diversion programs for people experiencing behavioral health crises;
- ◇ Mental health and substance use training for police officers;
- ◇ Grants to plan and implement police drop off centers for individuals with behavioral health needs.

# Sharing Your Story



- \* Legislators rely on experts (you) for information.
- \* Your story cannot be wrong; it's your own personal experience.
- \* Your experience has *value and meaning*.
- \* Keep it brief/stick to highlights - think movie trailer.
- \* Emotion should move, not overwhelm.
- \* You don't have to have all of the answers, just a clear "ask."





Dear Advocacy Day Volunteers:

Thanks to your great work, we're now at the finish line with the Budget for FY19 – both the final House Budget and the Senate Ways and Means budget includes the historic increase to DMH for the ACCS redesign.

**Now we urgently need your help with two budget amendments!**

Senator Cindy Friedman has filed two Amendments that NAMI Mass is supporting.

***Senate Budget Amendment #619 – NAMI Peer-to-Peer Program***

***Filed by: Senator Cindy Friedman***

This amendment would provide \$40,000 of financial support for NAMI Massachusetts' Peer-to-Peer program.

**S.2452 – An Act to establish a center of excellence in community policing and behavioral health**

**Email Script**

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_. I'm writing today to express my support for **S.2452**, which is currently in the Senate Ways and Means committee.

*[Sample Text – adjust as needed]*

S.2452 would establish a statewide Center for Police training in Crisis Intervention.

This training is a significant need in our state because the nature of policing has changed dramatically in recent years, with police regularly responding to people with behavioral health disorders. Police officers are the gatekeepers of the criminal justice system, but without appropriate training and procedures, police interactions can escalate quickly, especially when mental health or substance use issues are involved. Devastating consequences can result: unnecessary arrest or incarceration, worst cases, injury or death for the individual or the police officer involved.

Crisis Intervention Team, or CIT, training is an evidence-based program shown to reduce officer and individual injury, decrease unnecessary

**Phone Call Script**

Hello,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling today to express my support for **S.2452**, which is currently in the Senate Ways and Means committee.

***Make it personal:** What has been your experience (or the experience of someone you know) with the police or criminal justice system during a behavioral health crisis?*

*How would advanced behavioral health training, like CIT, for police officers have been helpful in a situation like that?*

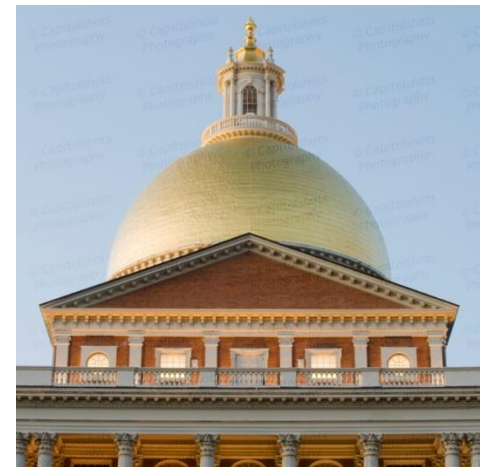
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*[If you **don't** have a personal story, you could say something like this:*

*We need more CIT training in our state because police regularly respond to people with behavioral health disorders. Without appropriate training and procedures, police interactions can escalate quickly, sometimes resulting in unnecessary arrest or incarceration, or in the worst cases, injury or death for the individual or the police officer involved.*



# Getting to know the MA State House online



# malegislature.gov

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[Senate Clerk](#)



### HOUSE

OF REPRESENTATIVES

[All Representatives](#)

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## HEARINGS & EVENTS

Date	Time	Event Title	Location
Thursday, Sep. 13	11:00 AM	Senate Session	Senate Chamber
Thursday, Sep. 13	11:00 AM	Informal House Session g8	House Chamber
Monday, Sep. 17	11:00 AM	Informal House Session	House Chamber
★ Tuesday, Sep. 18	1:00 PM	Joint Committee on Health Care Financing	A-1
★ Thursday, Sep. 20	11:30 AM	Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health	Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Upcoming Monday, Dec. 31	12:00 PM	Joint Session Constitutional Matters	House Chamber

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## BILLS & LAWS

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## FY 2019 BUDGET



# Learn about your Legislator

Senator  
★ JAMES B. ELDRIDGE  
Democrat - Middlesex and Worcester



✉ [James.Eldridge@masenate.gov](mailto:James.Eldridge@masenate.gov)



STATE HOUSE

24 Beacon St. [📍](#)  
Room 320  
Boston, MA, 02133

**Phone:** 617-722-1120  
**Fax:** 617-722-1089



DISTRICT OFFICE

255 Main Street [📍](#)  
Marlborough, MA 01752

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District

190th (Current) ▼

- Chairperson, Joint Committee on Financial Services
- Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses
- Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change
- Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
- Joint Committee on Marijuana Policy
- Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery
- Joint Committee on Ways and Means
- Special Senate Committee on Net Neutrality and Consumer Protection
- Senate Committee on Ways and Means
- Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
- Senate Committee on Steering and Policy

Senator  
★ JAMES B. ELDRIDGE  
Democrat - Middlesex and Worcester



✉ [James.Eldridge@masenate.gov](mailto:James.Eldridge@masenate.gov)



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Bills

Committees

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District

190th (Current) ▼

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Bill	Docket	Bill Pinslip/Title
★	SD 2198	Senate, May 8, 2017 -- Offered by Senator James B. Eldridge relative to calling for consideration the proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution establishing an independent redistricting commission (see Senate, No. 11)
★	S 11 SD 349	By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by proposal for constitutional amendment, Senate, No. 11) of James B. Eldridge for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to establish an independent redistricting commission. Election Laws.

# Learn about a Bill

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[Drafting Manual !\[\]\(272c80af0e08ae43939b2fee8592f640\_img.jpg\)](#)

[Glossary](#)

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★ **BILL S.1090**  
*190th (Current)*

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## AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY POLICING AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

By Mr. Donnelly, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1090) of Kenneth J. Donnelly, Jason M. Lewis, Kenneth I. Gordon, Barbara A. L'Italien and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a center of excellence in community policing and behavioral health. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

View Text

Print Preview

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**Presenter:** [Kenneth J. Donnelly](#)

Bill History

[Petitioners](#)

Displaying 4 actions for Bill S.1090

Date	Branch	Action
1/23/2017	Senate	Referred to the committee on <a href="#">Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery</a>
1/23/2017	House	House concurred
7/12/2017	Joint	Hearing scheduled for 07/18/2017 from 11:00 AM-01:00 PM in B-1
4/19/2018	Senate	Accompanied a new draft, see <a href="#">S2452</a>

### SIMILAR BILLS

- ★ [H.2399](#)  
An Act providing equitable access to behavioral health services for MassHealth consumers
- ★ [H.601](#)  
An Act relative to funding the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Trust Fund
- ★ [S.1212](#)  
An Act aligning hospital licensure with community needs in addiction and behavioral health
- ★ [S.1094](#)  
An Act to promote high value and evidence-based behavioral health care
- ★ [H.2974](#)  
An Act to limit retroactive denials of health insurance claims for behavioral health and substance abuse services



# AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY POLICING AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

By Mr. Donnelly, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1090) of Kenneth J. Donnelly, Jason M. Lewis, Kenneth I. Gordon, Barbara A. L'Italien and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a center of excellence in community policing and behavioral health. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

[View Text](#)

**Presenter:** [Kenneth J. Donnelly](#)

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Name	District/Address
<a href="#">Kenneth J. Donnelly</a>	Fourth Middlesex
<a href="#">Jason M. Lewis</a>	Fifth Middlesex
<a href="#">Kenneth I. Gordon</a>	21st Middlesex
<a href="#">Barbara A. L'Italien</a>	Second Essex and Middlesex
<a href="#">John J. Lawn, Jr.</a>	10th Middlesex
<a href="#">Patrick M. O'Connor</a>	Plymouth and Norfolk
<a href="#">Marjorie C. Decker</a>	25th Middlesex
<a href="#">Denise Provost</a>	27th Middlesex
<a href="#">Mary S. Keefe</a>	15th Worcester
<a href="#">James B. Eldridge</a>	Middlesex and Worcester

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### JOINT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND RECOVERY

#### Senate Contact

24 Beacon St. [↗](#)  
Room 413-D  
Boston, MA 02133

Phone: 6177221432

#### House Contact

24 Beacon St. [↗](#)  
Room 33  
Boston, MA 02133

Phone: (617) 722-2060

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#### SENATE MEMBERS



**Cindy F. Friedman**  
Chair



**John F. Keenan**  
Vice Chair



**Denise C. Garlick**  
Chair



**Daniel J. Ryan**  
Vice Chair

James B. Eldridge  
William N. Brownsberger  
Adam G. Hinds  
Brendan P. Crighton  
Richard J. Ross

Angelo M. Scaccia  
Michael J. Finn  
Diana DiZoglio  
Jeffrey N. Roy  
Michael S. Day  
José F. Tosado  
Dylan Fernandes  
Natalie Higgins  
William L. Crocker, Jr.  
Shaunna L. O'Connell  
Hannah Kane

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Boston, MA 02133

Phone: (617) 722-2060

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Date	Time	Topic	Location	Status	Bills
★ 5/8/2017	1:00 PM	Access and Treatment "To testify as a panel on a bill, please contact Rob Reed at Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing."	B-1	Completed	<a href="#">↗</a>
★ 6/5/2017	1:00 PM	Insurance, Placement and Training "To testify as a panel, please contact Rob Reed at Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing."	B-1	Completed	<a href="#">↗</a>
★ 6/13/2017	10:00 AM	DMH, Children, and Forensic Patients "To testify as a panel, please email Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing."	A-2	Completed	<a href="#">↗</a>
★ 6/19/2017	1:00 PM	Scope of Practice and Prescriptions "To testify as a panel on a bill, please email Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing."	B-1	Completed	<a href="#">↗</a>
★ 7/11/2017	10:00 AM	Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment "To testify as a panel, please email Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing."	B-2	Completed	<a href="#">↗</a>
★ 7/11/2017	10:00 AM	Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment "To testify as a panel, please email Robert.Reed@mahouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to the hearing."	222	Rescheduled	<a href="#">↗</a>

# Follow the Budget Process

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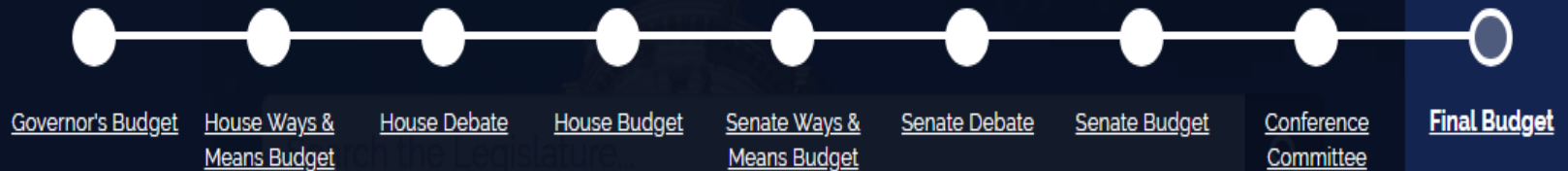
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FY 2019 Budget



# It's a long road but worth it



- \* Building any relationship takes time & effort
- \* Every “touch” is an opportunity to educate legislators, staff and the public about mental health issues and public policy
- \* It takes persistence to get our issues to the top of the agenda
- \* Legislation typically takes 8 years (4 legislative cycles)



# Acknowledgment



Many thanks to the  
Children's Mental Health  
Campaign  
Kate Ginnis  
for generously sharing  
materials used in this  
presentation



# Thank you!

Contact us!

Lori Krinsky: [lori.krinsky@gmail.com](mailto:lori.krinsky@gmail.com)

Monica Luke: [monica@namimass.org](mailto:monica@namimass.org)