

February 8, 2024

Chairwoman Pena Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland and our 11 local affiliates across the state represent a statewide network of more than 58,000 families, individuals, community-based organizations, and service providers. NAMI Maryland is a non-profit that is dedicated to providing education, support, and advocacy for persons with mental illnesses, their families and the wider community.

Psychiatric medications are an important part of treatment for many people who live with a mental illness. They improve symptoms and help promote recovery and wellness, but the price for medication can often be an obstacle. NAMI MD recognizes that the cost of not treating serious mental illnesses vastly exceeds the cost of treatment.

It is important for people to be able to afford their medications so they can take them every day. Over 781,000 adults in Maryland have a mental health condition. Of the 252,000 adults in Maryland who did not receive mental health care, 33.7% did not because of the cost.ⁱ The cost of prescription medication can be a financial burden. We oppose pricing practices that make psychiatric medications unaffordable.

NAMI MD supports HB340, which would establish a process for the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to set upper payment limits for prescription drugs that have led to or will lead to affordability challenges. We fully support HB340 and the Prescription Drug Affordability Board's efforts to make prescription drugs more affordable in the State. NAMI MD envisions a world where all persons affected by mental illness experience recovery and wellness.

NAMI MD urges a favorable report.

ⁱ [MarylandStateFactSheet.pdf \(nami.org\)](#)