

February 24, 2026

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and distinguished members of the Health Committee,

NAMI Maryland and our 11 local affiliates across the state represent a network of more than 60,000 families, individuals, community-based organizations, and service providers. NAMI Maryland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to providing education, support, and advocacy for people living with mental illnesses, their families, and the wider community.

HB1012 authorizes counties and municipalities across the State to establish local suicide fatality review teams aimed at preventing future tragedies through analysis and enhanced coordination. By authorizing the establishment of local teams, we can better identify systemic factors associated with suicide risk in specific communities. These teams would be able to examine trends, identify gaps in system use, and develop actionable recommendations.

This bill ensures holistic review and collaboration across the county. These local teams will coordinate with the State Suicide Fatality Review Committee, ensuring that local findings can help inform broader state-level protection strategies.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

Stephanie Slowly-Little
Executive Director
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland

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