

February 18, 2026

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and distinguished members of the Ways and Means 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.

NAMI Maryland supports HB800, which would update certain provision of the Blueprint that refer to behavioral health to be inclusive of “student well-being and human flourishing”.

We know that mental health is a key factor in our student’s overall health and welcome the adjustments to include well being in flourishing in our code. Mental health is inclusive if social well-being, environmental well-being, emotional well-being, spiritual well-being etc. as defined in the bill.

As such, NAMI Maryland supports the efforts to increase student well-being and flourishing. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

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

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