



2019 Legislative Action Agenda

Enact Extreme Risk Protection Orders

NAMI-NYS supports the enactment of an Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) law which would remove guns from the homes of people with mental illness during vulnerable times of crisis. Under the law family members, friends and caregivers could petition a court and express their concerns about someone living with a mental illness who they know has a gun and they fear is in crisis and could harm themselves or others. If the court grants the order, trained professionals would be sent to remove the gun from the home. The gun would be returned once the crisis is determined to be over. An ERPO law will help save lives by preventing suicide and other tragic outcomes.

Expand Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran's Mental Health Program

Supporting those who have served our country must be a top priority. Returning combat veterans are experiencing very high rates of serious mental health disorders, suicide, addiction, homelessness and incarceration related to posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. More must be done in New York to provide services to America's returning heroes of combat. This is why NAMI-NYS supports the continued investments and expansion of the innovative Joseph P. Dwyer veterans peer support program to more counties throughout the state.

Proper Education Regarding the Legalization of Marijuana

NAMI-NYS has serious concerns about Governor Cuomo's intention to legalize the recreational use of marijuana. Many studies have demonstrated the damaging effects of marijuana for people with psychotic disorders and young people in the prodromal period. If the state does move forward with legalization it must be done responsibly. NAMI-NYS is calling for warning labels on marijuana products that detail the hazards to those with psychosis. NAMI-NYS also wants a portion of the tax revenue generated from sales of legalized marijuana to be earmarked for the New York State Office of Mental Health to both be able to expand crisis services to address negative outcomes that could arise from people with psychosis having access to marijuana, as well as additional educational resources for schools and families.