



# MEMO

To: NAMI Leaders  
From: Advocacy & Public Policy Team  
Date: December 1, 2016  
RE: BREAKING: House passes Mental Health Reform as part of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures

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**We're celebrating!** Last night, the House passed H.R. 34 by a stunning vote of 392-26. Widely referred to as the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act*, the bill includes provisions from the *Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 (H.R. 2646)* and from S. 2680, the *Mental Health Reform Act of 2016*. It also contains language from S. 2002, the *Mental Health and Safe Communities Act of 2015* and from S. 993, the *Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act*, promoting de-escalation training and diverting people with mental illness to treatment instead of incarceration.

Mental health reform legislation (H.R. 2646) passed the House in July of this year, but the Senate's bill (S. 2680) had stalled. In recent weeks, the House and Senate negotiated compromise language on mental health and criminal justice reform that was incorporated into H.R. 34. Because of this, the Senate is expected to vote on the new language with little or no changes.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act also includes elements that NAMI strongly supports, including the following:

- Authorizes \$1.6 billion for the Brain Research Through Advancing Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, an effort to understand brain conditions, and \$1.6 billion for the Precision Medicine Initiative, and
- Requires the FDA to include patient experience in regulatory decisions.

**What's in the bill.** NAMI's press release and bill summary are attached. The full text of the bill can be found [here](#).

**Help bring mental health reform home.** We still need the Senate to pass this bill. Celebrate this important vote and tell the Senate to vote **yes** by sharing the *Facebook and Twitter* posts below.

**Tip:** For better image quality, use the attached image with your Facebook and Twitter posts.

## Sample Facebook Post

One down, one to go! Thanks to your advocacy, Mental Health Reform and the *Mental Health and Safe Communities Act* passed the House as part of the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act* by a vote of 392-26.

Tell your Senators to vote YES! <http://cqrcengage.com/nami/app/write-a-letter?2&engagementId=264133>

**The House**  
passed the  
**21st Century Cures**  
Act, which includes  
**Mental Health Reform**  
Now, on to the Senate!

### Sample Tweet

One down, one to go! Thanks to your advocacy, #MentalHealthReform passed the House. Tell your Senators to vote YES! <http://cqrcengage.com/nami/app/write-a-letter?2&engagementId=264133>

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passed the  
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Now, on to the Senate!