



National Alliance on Mental Illness

## UPDATED 2018 Calling Scripts for Key Budget Asks:

### **Housing**

**Who to call:** Assemblywoman Gunther (Mental Health Chair): 518-455-5355, Senator Robert Ortt (Mental Health Chair): 518-455-2024, Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein (Ways and Means Chair): 518-455-5462 and Senator Catharine Young (Finance chair): 518-455-3563

**What to Say:** I am calling your office as I want the chair to know that I am deeply concerned about the inability to access mental health housing. As someone who has been impacted by mental health issues, I think mental health housing is an important part of recovery. While I am encouraged to see the Senate make an additional investment in mental health housing, I am disappointed such an investment was omitted from the Assembly one-house bill. I am urging the chair to support a mental health housing investment in the final budget and follow the recommendation of the Bring it Home campaign to move the housing investment to the fourth quarter and have it annualized. Thank you!

### **Insurance Parity**

**Who to call:** Assemblywoman Gunther (Mental Health Chair): 518-455-5355, Senator Robert Ortt (Mental Health Chair): 518-455-2024, Assemblyman Kevin Cahill (Insurance Chair): 518-455-4436 and Senator James Seward (Insurance Chair): 518-455-3131

**What to Say:** I am calling your office as I want to thank the chair for including \$1.5 million in the one-house bills to fund a behavioral health ombudsman to monitor mental health parity violations. As someone impacted by mental illness, I am deeply concerned about the inability to access mental health services due to a lack of mental health insurance parity and network adequacy. Trying to find mental health services that will take my insurance is more difficult than it should be. I am grateful for the investment in a program to monitor this issue and I urge the chair to make sure it is included in the final budget. Thank you!

### **Restoring Prescriber Prevails**

**Who to call:** Assemblywoman Gunther (Mental Health Chair): 518-455-5355, Senator Robert Ortt (Mental Health Chair): 518-455-2024, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried (Health Chair) 518-455-4941, Senator Kemp Hannon (Health Chair): 518-455-2200

**What to Say:** I am calling your office as I want the chair to know that I am deeply concerned that the Governor's budget proposal eliminates prescriber prevails for the Medicaid program. As someone impacted by a mental illness, I know that a key part of recovery is receiving medications a doctor believes to be most appropriate. I am urging the chair to restore this important provision in the budget negotiations. Thank you!