

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 12, 2022

Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon  
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Delphin-Rittmon,

I write in support of the application submitted by the National Alliance on Mental Illness – New Hampshire (NAMI-NH) for a grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s Statewide Family Network program. Funding from SAMHSA would enable NAMI-NH to continue administering the NH Family Network (NHFN) Program that provides advocacy and support to families and caregivers who are engaged in the state's youth behavioral health system.

As the Statewide Family Network grantee in New Hampshire for the past six years, NAMI-NH already has the knowledge and capacity to engage with families and caregivers and deliver positive outcomes that strengthen the Granite State's mental health system. It strives to stay true to its roots as a grassroots organization founded by families of loved ones with mental illness. Through the NHFN, NAMI-NH offers guidance and a supportive space for these families where they can learn, grow and evolve into effective advocates for their young children. This level of support is especially crucial as we better understand the profound effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, youth and young adults. New Hampshire is currently witnessing an increase in the numbers of youth reporting increased anxiety, depression and thoughts of self-harm.

With support from SAMHSA, NAMI-NH and NHFN would continue efforts to help families advocate for services for their children that are family-driven, trauma-informed, culturally-relevant and resiliency-oriented. Raising their voices will not only decrease the stigma that surrounds mental illness and show families that they are not alone in their struggles, but also will drive sustainable change by ensuring that they are full partners in improving the way we deliver needed behavioral health services to children.

I strongly support the application for funding from NAMI-NH and urge your favorable consideration of its worthy proposal. If you need any additional information, please contact Jon Jarvis from my staff at (603) 647-7500 or by email at [jon\\_jarvis@shaheen.senate.gov](mailto:jon_jarvis@shaheen.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator