

NAMI WASHINGTON 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

In 2021, NAMI Washington will lead advocacy efforts to improve access to timely and effective behavioral health treatment and supports in the face of racial injustices, an economic downturn, and a global pandemic. NAMI's public bill tracker can be found [here](#). **NAMI Washington's focused policy priorities for 2021 are to:**

PROTECT FUNDING AND INVESTMENT FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- \$500,000 continued funding for NAMI Washington and affiliate support programs;
- Revenue to fully fund critical behavioral health services and supports that help individuals and families meet their basic needs (e.g. funding for the Housing and Essential Need program);
- \$250 million for the Housing Trust Fund ([HB1277](#)) and housing that serves individuals with behavioral health needs;
- \$300,000 to implement the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission the intersection of the criminal justice and behavioral health crisis system; work critical to decriminalizing behavioral health.

CREATE THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSUMER ADVOCACY: [HB1086](#)

Establishing this statewide office would:

- Provide people with a single phone number and website to access the office's services, advocate for people receiving behavioral health system services, serve as a resource for patients in hospital settings, and provide recommendations on systemic improvements to the governor's office and the legislature.

SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 988 CRISIS RESPONSE NUMBER: [HB1477](#)

NAMI Washington supports efforts to implement the new federal legislation that will establish the 988 behavioral health crisis response number and system as crisis response alternative to 911. This legislation would:

- Establish infrastructure for the 988 crisis hotline center and crisis services; create an implementation coalition; and impose a tax on all radio access lines for the statewide 988 line.

SUPPORT POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

NAMI Washington supports leaders on police accountability and communities of color disproportionately impacted by policing. These systems impact and intersect with behavioral health.

Bills we support under this priority include:

- [HB1054](#) banning neck restraints and chokeholds and other tactics
- [HB1267](#) creating the office of independent investigation
- [HB1203](#) concerning community oversight boards
- [SB5051](#) strengthening accountability measures

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

NAMI Washington also strongly supports:

- Reentry support ([SB5304](#) and [SB5118](#)); Access to culturally responsive services and health equity ([SB5229](#)); Supporting Mental Health Advanced Directives implementation ([SB5073](#) and [SB5370](#)); Strengthening less restrictive alternatives ([SB5071](#) and [SB5073](#)); and increased access to telehealth and access to broadband

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