

POSITION IN SUPPORT OF:

**LD 1187: An Act to Require Certain Mental Health Data to Be Included in Uniform Crime Reports
Presented to Maine's Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

As the state's largest grassroots mental health advocacy organization, NAMI Maine supports the passage of *An Act to Require Certain Mental Health Data to Be Included in Uniform Crime Reports*. Following the aftermath of the tragic events of October 25th, the state has worked to address concerns that arose within the system. As more and more weapons restriction orders and warrants have been completed, NAMI Maine has voiced concerns regarding the foundation of the orders being placed on the presence of mental health challenges.

NAMI Maine has expressed concerns in which constitutional rights of the second amendment are predicated on an individual's disability and the presence of mental illness, which is not evidence-based.¹ However, as we currently have the protocols in place, we have an ethical obligation as a system to ensure that individuals receive mental health services and ongoing assessments. As the current process has progressed, we have received phone calls from various departments requesting information on the process for returning firearms. They inquired about the services or resources the individual received and the stabilization provided. As this was not tracked, police departments are expressing concern over the lack of knowledge and tracking of this information. As information is being released regarding Weapon Restriction Orders, there are times that it appears that individuals are involved in domestic violence assaults or exhibited escalated presentations prior to the orders or warrants being issued without interventions. This bill will help provide information and context regarding gaps in services and resources, ensuring that our system effectively addresses the needs of those in our communities. We also support Representative Gramlich's amendment to transfer the data collection under Title 22, ensuring that this is collected alongside other significant data that has provided invaluable information to guide interventions. We also want to ensure that this information is made available to the public to inform policies and decision-making effectively, as well as to address the barriers that prevent individuals from receiving necessary treatment.

NAMI Maine would like to express its appreciation to Representative Gramlich for her initiative in ensuring that this information is collected and tracked. As we strive as a state to develop solid policies and systems, we must ensure that we examine all aspects and data that can assist us in our decision-making. Because of this, we support the passage of LD 1187.

ABOUT NAMI MAINE: Incorporated in 1984, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maine Chapter (NAMI Maine) is the state's largest grassroots mental health organization. With support from national and regional affiliates, the agency is dedicated to building better lives for everyone impacted by behavioral health concerns. NAMI Maine engages with leaders and community partners at all levels to improve the state's mental health system through collaboration and education.

¹ Elbogen, E. B., & Verykousis, N. (2023). *Violence and Mental Illness Rethinking Risk Factors and Enhancing Public Safety*. NYU Press.

LEGISLATIVE CONTACT

Hannah Longley, LCSW, Director of
Advocacy and Crisis Intervention
(207) 622-5767 ○ HannahL@namimaine.org

POSITIONS & POLICY AGENDA

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