

Hello friends and advocates!

It **truly** makes a difference when our state legislators are hearing from folks who care about these issues so I am contacting you to say, first – THANKS for making phone calls/emails and second, let's ramp up those efforts! Legislators are heading into intense budget discussions for the next two weeks and they need to hear from us now more than ever! Below is the recent action alert from NAMI VA on priority budget amendments we are advocating for this legislative session. Can you help by either making additional calls/emails, or asking a friend to do the same? Background info (i.e. one pagers/talking points) and detailed "how to" is included in the email to give you all the information you need to speak out. **If you have:**

- 2 minutes: send an email to the Chair of the House subcommittee and also the Senate subcommittee – scroll on down for contact info
- 5 minutes: make a phone call to the Chair of each subcommittee – contact info in the email below
- 10 minutes: send an email to each member of the House Health & Human Resources subcommittee, or the Senate HHR subcommittee. Contact info below.
- 15 minutes: send an email to each member of the House Health & Human Resources subcommittee **AND** Senate Finance HHR Committee
- 20 minutes: make a phone call to the committee members

While it is a "best practice" to only contact your own delegate/senator because that is who represents you, the reality is that the "money" committee members are also representing the ENTIRE state in their decision-making; therefore they need to hear from everyone!

By contacting these decision-makers we will be putting these issues on high alert on their radars, letting them know we care and we need their help with addressing gaps in our communities. THANK YOU for your advocacy!

If you could, **contact the members of the "money" committees by this Monday, February 13, 2012** to let them know that you support these budget amendments

What is the message to deliver?

1. Please **SUPPORT** the budget amendment for jail diversion for people with serious mental illness. The Budget Numbers are 315 #1s (Chief Patron Senator Howell) and 315 #9h (Chief Patron Del. Yost).
2. Please **SUPPORT** the budget amendment for children's mental health crisis response and child psychiatry. The Budget Numbers are 315 #6s (Chief Patron Senators Hanger and Howell), 315 #3h (Chief Patron Delegate O'Bannon), 315 #7s (Chief Patrons Senators Hanger and Howell) and 315 #4h (Chief Patrons Delegate O'Bannon and Englin).

3. Please **SUPPORT** the budget amendment for mental health services for chronically homeless adults with mental illness. The Budget Numbers are 315 # 13s (Chief Patron Senator Howell) and 315 #5h (Chief Patron Del. O'Bannon).
4. Please **SUPPORT** the budget amendment to reinvest savings from Medicaid managed care into expanding community services...instead of putting those savings into the general fund! Budget Number is 315 #5s (Chief Patron: Senator Howell)

How to contact the legislators

- Call the office of the legislators (between the hours of 9am - 5pm). Contact information is included at the end of this email. • Or send an email. Contact information is included in this email.
- Ask to speak with the senator/delegate. If he/she is not available (very likely they won't be!), ask to speak with the Legislative Aide (LA). If the LA isn't available, speak with the secretary. Or you may call back when the LA is available.
- Leave a detailed message **including the Budget Number**. Please note that additional information such as talking points are included in the fact sheets in this email.
- You may be asked if you are a constituent. If you're not a constituent, kindly say that you're not, but you are calling because the delegate/senator sits on the "money" committee and those issues and decisions affect all Virginians.
- If you are a constituent, be sure to leave your name, phone, email, and address because often the LA or delegate/senator would like to get back with you.
- Always be courteous, respectful, and brief.

Budget Amendments and Talking Points

Jail Diversion Programs

[Fact Sheet - Click here](#)

Mental Health Services for Persons who are Chronically Homeless with Serious Mental Illness

[Fact Sheet - click here](#)

Children's Mental Health Crisis Response and Child Psychiatry Demonstration Project

[Fact sheet - click here](#)

Reinvest Medicaid savings from expanded managed care back into new mental health services - not the state's general fund!

[Fact sheet - click here](#)

SEE ATTACHED FOR Contact Information- phone and email

1. **Address your email: Dear Senator _____ or Dear Delegate _____**
2. **State that you are a constituent (if you are)**
3. **Give the Budget Item (or Bill Number). Refer to the fact sheets for the Budget Item Number. Note: "H" means "House" and "S" means "Senate".**
4. **Be short and to the point! Do not ramble.**
5. **If you have a personal example that can strengthen your point, use it.**
6. **Always be courteous.**
7. **Leave your address, phone, and email in the body of your email**
8. **Say thank you.**

Tips for Contacting your Representatives via Phone

1. **Call the Richmond office (between 9am-5pm) during the months of the General Assembly. Most likely the secretary will pick up.**
2. **Ask to speak to the Senator/Delegate. If he/she is not available, ask to speak to the Legislative Aide (LA). The LA is the "eyes and ears" of the Senator/Delegate, so of course treat them respectfully.**
3. **If you must speak to the Senator/Delegate, say you will call back. Find out if there is a good time to reach the Senator/Delegate.**
4. **If you leave a message for the Senator/Delegate, or Legislative Aide leave a detailed message (with the Budget Item Number/Bill Number) and say that you are a constituent.**
5. **Be courteous, and brief.**

Thank you very much for your advocacy!

**Kay Ashby,
President
NAMI-VB**

Members of the Health & Human Resources Sub-Committee of the Senate Finance Committee

Senator	Party	District number	District areas	Phone Number	Email Address
Emmett Hanger (Chair)	R	24	Augusta, Greene, Madison, Staunton and Waynesboro; Part of Culpepper and Rockingham	804-698-7524	District24@senate.virginia.gov
Janet Howell	D	32	Part of Arlington and Fairfax County	804-698-7532	District32@senate.virginia.gov
John Watkins	R	10	Powhatan, Part of Chesterfield and Richmond City	804-698-7510	District10@senate.virginia.gov
Yvonne Miller	D	5	Part of City of Chesapeake and Norfolk	804-698-7505	District05@senate.virginia.gov
Henry Marsh	D	16	Hopewell and Petersburg; Part of Chesterfield, Prince George, and Richmond City	804-698-7959	District16@senate.virginia.gov
Ryan McDougle	R	4	Caroline, Essex, Lancaster, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond County; Part of Hanover, King George, Spotsylvania, and Westmoreland	804-698-7504	District04@senate.virginia.gov
Jill Holtzman Vogel	R	27	Clarke, Fauquier, Fredericjk and Winchester; Part of Culpepper, Loudoun, and Stafford	804-698-7527	District27@senate.virginia.gov

Members of the Health & Human Resources Sub-Committee of the House Appropriations Committee

Delegate	Party	District number	District areas	Phone Number	Email Address
Riley E. Ingram (Chair)	R	62	Part of Chesterfield, Henrico, Prince George, and Hopewell	804-698-1062	delringram@house.virginia.gov
R. Steven "Steve" Landes	R	25	Part of Albemarle, Augusta, and Rockingham	804-698-1025	Delslandes@house.virginia.gov
S. Chris Jones	R	76	Part of Chesapeake and Suffolk	804-698-1076	delcjones@house.virginia.gov
John M. O'Bannon, III M.D.	R	73.	Part of Henrico	804-698-1073	deljobannon@house.virginia.gov
Chris Peace	R	97	New Kent; Part of Hanover and King William	804-698-1097	delcpeace@house.virginia.gov
Robert H. Brink	D	48	Part of Arlington County and Fairfax County	804-698-1048	delrbrink@house.virginia.gov
Onzlee Ware	D	11	Part of Roanoke City	804-698-1011	deloware@house.virginia.gov
Rosalyn R. Dance	D	63	Petersburg; Part of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Hopewell, and Prince George	804-698-1063	delrdance@house.virginia.gov