



**Testimony**  
**Robin Reedy, Executive Director, NAMI Nevada**  
**(National Alliance on Mental Illness)**  
**To the Silver State Scripts Board**  
**June 24, 2021 Agenda Item 4**

Distinguished members of the Board, on behalf of NAMI Nevada, the state chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, I would like to offer our views on the impact of your decisions on our members, families and all those that live with a mental health condition.

As a matter of principle NAMI is in support of open access to all safe and effective medications for mental health conditions as prescribed by qualified health care professionals. We support excluding antipsychotic medication from any non-clinically based restrictive formulary measures. Access to meds is crucial. Without the right medications at the right time, they may struggle, worsen conditions, and experience dramatic negative consequences. Effectiveness and side effects vary for every person. Being put on one med may map the brain and another med that may have worked before will not work now. Various levels of severity, different levels of effectiveness, flexibility needed in drug policy and access to all drugs shows improvement in treatment and outcomes.

NAMI believes that the decision to prescribe medication to patients with a mental health condition should be based on the clinical judgement of the treatment providers. Research has shown that prior authorizations denials for psychiatric populations results in poor outcomes which include increased utilization of ER's, higher incarceration, and higher usage of mental health inpatient hospitalizations.

Now more than ever, the people of Nevada deserve the opportunity to experience health and productivity. Removing barriers, giving institutions the increased ability to use LAI in detention, correctional facilities and for those on Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance without arbitrary regulations not only affects our current populations but future generations. In support of this goal, NAMI Nevada urges public policies

that ensure that all people have access to the right treatments at the right time. For this reason, we urge the Board to encourage policies that continue our path to improving the lives of our citizens, who through no fault of their own, need your help.

Thank you for your time.

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