

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 601
Apr 4, 2019
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30166-MGa-79

Short Title: Funds for NAMI North Carolina, Inc. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko and Hurley (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
3 SERVICES, DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,
4 AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, TO EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH
5 EDUCATION AND AWARENESS IN THIS STATE THROUGH YOUTH MENTAL
6 HEALTH PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY NAMI NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
9 Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and
10 Substance Abuse Services, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the
11 2019-2020 fiscal year, to be allocated as a grant-in-aid to NAMI North Carolina, Inc., a nonprofit
12 corporation, for the expansion of mental health education and awareness programs in the State
13 that are designed to provide training, education, resources, and supports for youth and their
14 families. NAMI North Carolina, Inc., shall use these funds to do all of the following:

- 15 (1) Provide youth mental health education programs that, at a minimum, provide
16 education on all of the following:
17 a. Mental illness, including the types of mental illness, the signs of
18 mental illness, coping techniques for persons with mental illness, and
19 available mental health services and resources.
20 b. Myths and attitudes about persons living with mental illness.
21 c. Warning signs of persons at risk for suicide and steps for referring
22 youth to support services at school and in the community.
23 d. Education on stigma and its harmful effects, including preventing
24 individuals with mental illness from seeking help and treatment.
25 e. Ways to reduce stigma and create a supportive environment for youth
26 with mental illness.
27 (2) Work to support efforts to improve early detection through mental health
28 screening in schools at all levels.
29 (3) Develop, in collaboration with youth with mental illness, a media campaign
30 targeting youth that increases public awareness about mental health and the
31 resources available in the State to address mental illness based on
32 evidence-based practices. As part of its media campaign, NAMI North
33 Carolina, Inc., shall sponsor child mental health awareness events in school
34 districts covering all regions of North Carolina.
35 (4) Establish school-based youth mental health awareness clubs in middle and
36 high schools in North Carolina based on NAMI North Carolina, Inc.'s



1 evidence-based "Ending the Silence" program, which (i) engages and educates
2 young people about identifying the signs of mental health conditions, (ii)
3 educates young people about the resources available in the State to help
4 address mental health conditions experienced by youth, and (iii) teaches youth
5 with mental illness how to move beyond the stigma associated with mental
6 illness and share their journey of recovery as a way to help educate and inspire
7 other young people to "end the silence" on mental illness and grow the
8 movement to end the stigma.

- 9 (5) Research other evidence-based and emerging curriculum and programs that
10 provide support and education to middle school and high school students that
11 may be beneficial to students in North Carolina.

12 **SECTION 1.(b)** By March 1, 2021, NAMI North Carolina, Inc., shall evaluate and
13 report on its use of the funds allocated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The report shall,
14 at a minimum, include all of the following:

- 15 (1) A description and the location of any programs or clubs implemented by
16 NAMI North Carolina, Inc., pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.
17 (2) An evaluation of any progress by NAMI North Carolina, Inc., in expanding
18 mental health education and awareness in the State.
19 (3) Any recommendations for ways to better support youth with mental illness.

20 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.