



**Comments in Support: Senate Bill 824 with Dash-1 Amendments**

From: Chris Bouneff, Executive Director, NAMI Oregon

April 2, 2025

Senate Health Care Committee

NAMI Oregon wishes to express its support for SB 824 with the Dash-1 amendments, which would permit the Department of Consumer and Business Services to continue to produce a comprehensive annual report analyzing health insurance parity in Oregon.

As background, we are the Oregon chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. We are a grassroots, membership-governed organization composed almost entirely of individuals and families living with mental health disorders. With our 17 local chapters, we annually serve more than 15,000 Oregonians through our free education, support, and awareness programs.

NAMI Oregon was a leading organization in the coalition that developed and championed HB 3046 in 2021, which requires parity in both commercial health coverage and managed-Medicaid plans. Annual reporting by health plans and coordinated care organizations is a requirement that helps the state of Oregon better understand inequities and inadequacies in both coverage and access to behavioral health services as compared with coverage and access to medical/surgical services. The law is considered a gold standard across the country.

The Dash-1 amendments would continue important reporting requirements for commercial health insurance plans that were part of Oregon's sweeping update of its parity laws via HB 3046. These particular reporting requirements are set to sunset but are proving useful and illuminating to have as part of ongoing annual reporting. It is clear today that data points such as denials, ratio of in-network claims to out-of-network claims, and geographic variation in reimbursements are crucial information for state regulators to have each year.

We applaud this proposal from DCBS to make this information a permanent fixture in annual reporting and urge the Committee to support SB 824-1.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.