



2020 Legislative Action Agenda Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Veterans and Other Service Members

Supporting those who have served our country must be a top priority. Returning combat veterans are experiencing very high rates of serious mental health disorders, suicide, addiction, homelessness and incarceration related to posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

More must be done in New York to provide services to America's returning heroes of combat. This is why NAMI-NYS supports the **continued investments and expansion of the innovative Joseph P. Dwyer veterans peer support program** to more counties throughout the state.

NAMI-NYS supports the inclusion of \$1,000,000, for services and expenses related to suicide prevention efforts for veterans, first responders, law enforcement and corrections officers contained Governor Cuomo's budget proposal.

NAMI-NYS also supports S.3889 which would allow courts to refer appropriate cases to problem solving courts, which includes veterans' courts. NAMI-NYS applauds this measure, which would allow the court to treat the veteran's issue in a specialized way that takes into account all of the circumstances and unique needs of the veteran.