March for Dignity and Change, Washington, DC

On August 24th, a march for dignity and change in mental health is taking place in Washington, DC. The purpose of the march is to bring stakeholders in the mental health community together around the common goals of ending prejudice and discrimination towards people with mental illness and urging more humane responses to people with mental illness in their communities. Although NAMI was not involved in planning this march, we support its goals and therefore have added our name to the list of supporting organizations.

The overall purpose of the march is to demonstrate solidarity around common goals, not to advocate for or against specific federal legislation. We understand that late August is not an ideal time to endure the Washington heat, particularly at a time when many are on vacation. However, we think the opportunity for the mental health community to speak with a common voice on the issue of ongoing prejudice and discrimination is an important one. We will not be able to pay for buses to travel to DC or pay for other travel, but will be contributing water for those who march.

<u>Learn more about the March for Dignity</u>. For information not provided on this website, please contactinfo@nami.org.

For those of you interested in coming to Washington to advocate with legislators and their staff, stay tuned for information about **Hill Days 2015**, an event taking place in Washington, DC on October 5th and 6th. NAMI will be participating in this important event jointly with the National Council for Behavioral Health and several other organizations. Hill Days 2015 will present a unique opportunity to communicate with federal legislators about important mental health legislation and priorities at a time when Congress is in session.

<u>Learn more about Hill Days 2015.</u> NAMI will also be sending out more information about this event as we get closer.

Thank you.

Mary Giliberti, J.D. Executive Director NAMI