NAMI Minnesota Bill on Sober Homes to be Heard on Wednesday

On Wednesday morning, the House Behavioral Health Policy Division will hold a hearing on HF 287. This is NAMI Legislation that would commission a study on how to expand access sober homes and consider potential strategies for oversight so people have a place to file complaints. Sober homes are a very important part of the continuum of supports for people in recovery from a substance use disorder. Many sober homes offer a safe place for people with substance use disorders to live with their peers, get back on their feet, and make progress in their recovery.

However, we have heard from many NAMI Minnesota members and supporters about problems with sober homes. Unsanitary living conditions, high costs, evictions, and substance use at sober homes have been reported by many members and were featured in an <u>article from the Star</u> <u>Tribune</u>. Legislators need to hear from you!

If you or a loved one have had a negative experience with a Minnesota sober home including:

- Unsanitary living conditions
- Drug and alcohol use on the premises
- High room and board costs
- Discharge in the middle of the night due to a relapse
- Other challenges

If this matches with your experience – or if you've had a positive experience at a sober home – please contact me as soon as possible. NAMI Minnesota has found enough testifiers for the hearing, but we are still seeking people who are willing to share their story and submit written testimony. If you are interested. Please contact <u>Sam Smith</u> as soon as possible. Thank you for your support and advocacy!