

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

October 6, 2009

## Via Electronic Transmission

Don Adamowski  
President  
National Alliance on Mental Illness, New York  
260 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12210

Dear Mr. Adamowski:

The United States Senate Committee on Finance (Committee) has jurisdiction over the Medicare and Medicaid programs and, accordingly, a responsibility to the more than 100 million Americans who receive health care coverage under these programs. As Ranking Member of the Committee, I have a duty to protect the health of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and safeguard taxpayer dollars authorized by Congress for these programs.

For the last three years, the Committee has been looking into various aspects of the pharmaceutical industry, including consulting arrangements and industry funding for Continuing Medical Education (CME). My staff also examined several issues relating to organizations like the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). In addition, I have read newspaper accounts documenting the lack of transparency in the relationships between the pharmaceutical industry and, organizations like NAMI. Therefore, I am hoping that you can provide me with some additional insight into these relationships.

On April 6, 2009 I sent a letter to the Executive Director and the President of the Board of Directors of NAMI located in Arlington, Virginia (NAMI National). In that letter, I requested an accounting of industry funding that pharmaceutical companies and/or foundations established by these companies provided to NAMI National over several years. NAMI National reported receiving the following amounts of funding from the pharmaceutical industry between the calendar years of 2005-2008:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Amount of Money received from Pharmaceutical Companies</b>
2005	\$ 5,893,800
2006	\$ 6,421,900
2007	\$ 8,453,200
2008	\$ 7,890,400
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 28,659,300</b>

I learned from my inquiry into NAMI National that NAMI has about one thousand local affiliates around the country. According to NAMI National, each affiliate runs independently. NAMI National also explained to me that they were unable to report on those affiliates financial relationships. In light of the information that I have received to date from NAMI National and others, I would appreciate an accounting of industry funding that pharmaceutical companies and/or foundations established by these companies provided to the NAMI New York chapter and all their affiliated chapters. (The term “industry funding” means any transfer of value from a pharmaceutical company, including but not limited to grants, donations, and sponsorship for meetings or programs, etc.) Also, I would also like to understand the financial relationship between NAMI New York and NAMI National. These requests cover the period of January 2005 to the present.

Because reporting practices vary widely from one organization to another, I would appreciate you also placing this income into a chart, detailing annual amounts of industry funding from pharmaceutical companies. For each year, please provide the following information for NAMI New York chapter:

- 1) Year;
- 2) Name of company;
- 3) Amount of funding; and
- 4) Reason(s) that the funding was provided.

Please also provide a chart, detailing annual amounts of any transfer of funds between NAMI New York and NAMI National. For each year, please provide the following:

- 1) Year;
- 2) Annual amounts provided to NAMI National by NAMI New York; and
- 3) Annual amounts provided to NAMI New York by NAMI National.

In addition, please explain NAMI New York chapters’ policies for accepting industry funding by answering the following questions. For each question, please respond by first repeating the enumerated question followed by the appropriate answer.

- 1) Please describe the policies for accepting industry funding and whether or not NAMI New York chapter allows companies to place restrictions or provide guidance on how funding will be spent.
- 2) If NAMI New York chapter allows companies to place restrictions on industry funding, then please explain all restrictions and/or guidance for each transfer of value from a pharmaceutical company since January 2005. For every transfer of value with a restriction, please provide the following information: year of transfer, name of company, and restriction placed on funding.

In cooperating with the Committee's review, no documents, records, data or information related to these matters shall be destroyed, modified, removed or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.

I look forward to hearing from you by no later than October 20, 2009. All documents responsive to this request should be sent electronically in PDF format to [Brian\\_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov](mailto:Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Downey or Paul Thacker at (202) 224-4515.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member