



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI South Carolina

June 1, 2016

The Honorable Kirkman Finlay, III
P.O. Box 11684
Columbia 29211

The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III –

I want to thank you personally for all the people in South Carolina that either live with a mental illness, or care for someone with a mental illness, for presenting The Resolution to NAMI Mid Carolina on Tuesday at the Statehouse. We are so fortunate to have legislators like you who understand the many challenges the mentally ill face and the need for good treatment and care and the hope and bright future that they may achieve given this care. To be recognized in this great institution indeed brings to light that these are not illnesses to hide, but are in fact illnesses that impact all of us at one time or another.

As you may know, I have a son who developed bipolar disorder at the end of his sophomore year in college while studying engineering. This was the starting point for me becoming involved with advocacy at NAMI. When I attended my first NAMI meeting over 15 years ago, Caroline Meyer introduced herself to me, told me that she was glad to meet me, *and asked me what I wanted to volunteer for.* So began what lead to my career at NAMI. Needless to say I tried to emulate her passion and do the work that needs to be done for those with mental illness.

Again, thank you for the resolution and for bringing NAMI and mental health issues to the forefront of the legislature. If there is anything that I can do or help with, do not hesitate to call or email.

Respectfully –

Bill Lindsey

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