



February 24, 2010

Senator Ben Nelson
440 North 8th Street
Suite 120
Lincoln, NE, 68508

Dear Senator Nelson:

NAMI Nebraska is writing to ask your support for the earmark request for \$250,000 which will assist the Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Exchange as they work with behavioral health service providers to acquire Electronic Medical Records applications (EMR's). The capital requirements represented are beyond the resources available to these providers. The Behavioral Health Region 5 for Nebraska has agreed to commit \$429,000 toward the purchase of these applications. This represents approximately one-half of the resources required.

The Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Exchange (SNBHIN) is a 501 (c) (3) private non profit corporation that serves as a Regional Health Organization (RIO) for behavioral health service providers in Southeast Nebraska. These service providers are feeling the impact of cuts in budgets both nationally and state.

NAMI Nebraska provides education and support services to mental health consumers and their families who will greatly benefit from the development and implementation of a behavioral health integrated information and data management system.

We urge you to give serious consideration to this requested earmark as it will benefit consumers and their families in their quest for integrated services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonah M. Deppe".

Jonah M Deppe
Executive Director
NAMI Nebraska