APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST & JUSTIFICATION – FY 2022

**PAIMI funds vital advocacy for people with mental health disabilities to access education, employment, housing and other critical supports to live and be self-sufficient in their communities, and be free from abuse and neglect.**

# **Protection and Advocacy**

# **for Individuals with Mental Illness**

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) provides advocacy assistance to individuals with significant mental illness or emotional impairment. PAIMI authorizes P&As to:

* Investigate abuse and neglect and rights violations in public and private facilities and community settings.
* Oversee the effectiveness of state agencies that license and regulate these programs.
* Ensure access to community-based services and supports.

**Background**
In FY 2004, PAIMI was funded at $35 million, and after years of struggle, cuts and minor increases, funding has increased only slightly, to $36 million in FY 2019 and has been level funded since. When inflation is taken into consideration, this is not an increase but instead, a cut. PAIMI program funding is administered by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

**Request**
We urge Congress to increase funds for mental health advocacy as it is sorely needed for P&As to carry out their mission on behalf of PAIMI-eligible clients.

*\*Displayed in Millions*

**NDRN recommends a funding level of $40 million for Fiscal Year 2022**