



The Honorable Senator Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

October 19, 2009

RE: NAMI Montana's Funding Sources

Senator Grassley:

I am responding on behalf of the Montana chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for Montana to your request for information regarding the amount of funding we receive from pharmaceutical companies. I am NAMI Montana's Executive Director and our only full-time employee. I can only respond regarding NAMI Montana's finances since NAMI Montana has neither legal nor operational control of our affiliates. However, NAMI Billings' is our only affiliate with paid staff and they agreed to answer your funding questions with a letter that is attached as Exhibit A.

If you would like to contact our affiliates regarding their finances, I ask that you please try and understand the truly grassroots-nature of those affiliates and the challenges of operating an organization composed of individuals with serious mental illness and their families. For instance, the only person in NAMI Kalispell who could effectively respond to your request was released from the Montana State Hospital after having major symptoms due to his Bipolar Disorder. Further, I can assure you that our local affiliates do not coordinate political advocacy efforts in Montana – that is my role.

Please find information regarding NAMI Montana's industry funding, payments from NAMI National to NAMI Montana, and payments from NAMI Montana to NAMI National below. These numbers represent a good faith effort to respond to your requests. I have also discussed NAMI Montana's policies regarding industry funding and a perspective on industry funding of NAMI's signature educational programs.

**A. Industry Funding to NAMI Montana**

Year	Company	Donation	Reason
2005	Eli Lilly and Company	\$2,500	Donation to NAMIWalk, NAMI Montana's annual fundraising event. All Walk donations are unrestricted.

2005	Johnson and Johnson	\$1,000	Donation to NAMIWalk, NAMI Montana's annual fundraising event. All Walk donations are unrestricted.
2005	Eli Lilly and Company	\$1,000	Donation to Montana's Conference on Mental Illness. NAMI Montana volunteers coordinated this conference for the State of Montana's Addictive and Mental Disorders Division of the Department of Public Health and Human Services. NAMI Montana did not receive any financial remuneration for coordinating this event.
2006	Eli Lilly and Company	\$5,000	Donation to NAMIWalk, NAMI Montana's annual fundraising event. All Walk donations are unrestricted.
2006	Wyeth	\$3,000	Donation to NAMIWalk, NAMI Montana's annual fundraising event. All Walk donations are unrestricted.
2006	AstraZeneca	\$1,500	Donation to NAMIWalk, NAMI Montana's annual fundraising event. All Walk donations are unrestricted.
2007	Slovay	\$500	Donation to NAMIWalk, NAMI Montana's annual fundraising event. All Walk donations are unrestricted.
2008	Lilly and Company	\$1,000	Donation to NAMIWalk, NAMI Montana's annual fundraising event. All Walk donations are unrestricted.
2009	Not Applicable	N/A	NAMI Montana has not accepted any donations from pharmaceutical companies in 2009.

**B. Description of Payments from NAMI National to NAMI Montana.**

NAMI Montana was able to collect the payments from November of 2005 through the present-day. However, we were not able to compile payments from January of 2005 through October of 2005 due to a change in accounting systems on a national level and a lack of a computer system on our level.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Reason</b>
2005	\$700.00	Scholarships for NAMI's Leadership Institute.
2006	\$95.00	Reimbursements for payments incorrectly sent to National.
2006	\$857.50	NAMIWalks money NAMI Montana rose through NAMI National's online donation system.
2007	\$35.00	Money NAMI Montana rose through the use of NAMI National's E-Join Membership system for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2007.
2007	\$3,905.30	NAMIWalks money NAMI Montana rose through NAMI National's online donation system.
2007	\$70.00	Money NAMI Montana rose through the use of NAMI

		National's E-Join Membership system for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2007.
2007	\$500.00	Pass Through Solvay Grant Money (Note: these funds are also described above).
2008	\$140.00	Money NAMI Montana rose through the use of NAMI National's E-Join Membership system for 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2007.
2008	\$306.31	Reimbursement for cancelled registration for "In Our Own Voice Training."
2008	\$10,000	Year 2 Grant to develop "NAMI Connection" support groups
2008	\$105.00	Money NAMI Montana rose through the use of NAMI National's E-Join Membership system for 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2008.
2008	\$245.00	Money NAMI Montana rose through the use of NAMI National's E-Join Membership system for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008.
2008	\$300.00	"In Our Own Voice Training" Travel Reimbursement
2008	\$5,000.00	Training grant for "NAMI Basics" teacher training
2008	\$23,078.02	NAMIWalks money NAMI Montana raised through NAMI National's online donation system
2008	\$105.00	Money NAMI Montana rose through the use of NAMI National's E-Join Membership system for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2008.
2008	\$602.70	NAMIWalks money NAMI Montana raised through NAMI National's online donation system
2008	\$35.00	Money NAMI Montana rose through the use of NAMI National's E-Join Membership system for 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008.
2009	\$245.00	Money NAMI Montana rose through the use of NAMI National's E-Join Membership system for 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2008.
2009	\$175.00	Money NAMI Montana rose through the use of NAMI National's E-Join Membership system for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009.

**C. Description of Payments from NAMI Montana to NAMI National.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Reason</b>
2005	\$250.00	Payment for NAMI National employee's travel to Montana.
2006	\$726.25	Hurricane relief for people who live with severe mental illness.
2006	\$126.00	Web membership fees.
2006	\$255.00	Not clear from record what this payment was for.
2006	\$71.00	Web membership fees.
2006	\$3,500.00	NAMI National Walk fee.
2006	\$5,000.00	NAMI National Walk fee.
2006	\$125.00	Convention Registration.
2006	\$22.00	Web membership fees.
2006	\$116.00	Web membership fees.
2007	\$491.00	2006 final Walk fee
2007	\$5,000.00	2007 initial Walk fee
2007	\$1,350.00	Convention Registration

2007	\$30.00	Web membership fees.
2007	\$11.00	Web membership fees.
2007	\$79.00	Web membership fees.
2007	\$130.00	Web membership fees.
2007	\$12.00	Web membership fees.
2007	\$102.00	Web membership fees.
2007	\$5,000	2008 initial Walk fee
2008	\$1217.20	2007 final Walk fee.
2008	\$2,515.33	Convention Registration and Family-to-Family publications.
2008	\$106.00	Web membership fees.
2008	\$600.00	Publications for Family-to-Family class
2009	\$5,000.00	2009 initial Walk fee
2009	\$107.00	Not clear what this payment was for
2009	\$70.00	Not clear what this payment was for
2009	\$3024.52	2008 final Walk fee
2009	\$556.61	Reimbursement for NAMI National employee's trip to Montana for NAMI Basics training
2009	\$106.50	Not clear what this payment was for

**D. Formal Policies on Industry Funding**

NAMI Montana does not have any formal policies regarding industry funding. We do accept industry funding and we would definitely accept such funding if it was restricted to fund a particular program, support group, etc. It is a pretty standard practice for funding organizations to restrict their funds from being used for things like infrastructure or certain operational expenses. NAMI Montana does not view that manner of restrictions as unduly controlling and would accept funds with those restrictions.

NAMI Montana does ensure that donations do not affect our political advocacy efforts or appear to affect those efforts. This occurs through an informal process. For instance, I personally refused a \$1,000 grant from AstraZeneca this summer, because I did not like how it would look for us to accept that donation while we were advocating before Montana Medicaid's Drug Utilization Review Board. I also declined to be honored by Triwest for our advocacy efforts on behalf of veterans with post traumatic stress injuries while we were advocating for the Post Deployment Health Assessment Act.

It is also important to point out that our premier corporate sponsor is a cellular phone company. They donated more money at this year's NAMIWalk (over \$17,000) than the pharmaceutical companies have given us during the entire time period under question. This cellular phone company donates to NAMI Montana, because they believe our programs save lives and keep families together. They would not support us if we were merely a front for the pharmaceutical companies.

On a personal note, I gave up my career as a corporate attorney to take over as NAMI Montana's first Executive Director. This career change led to a pay cut and the loss of all benefits, such as healthcare coverage and retirement savings. I would not have made that pecuniary sacrifice if I did not believe that NAMI Montana's sole objective is to make a better world for Montanans who live with serious mental illness and their families.

**E. Industry Funding for NAMI's Signature Programs**

NAMI Montana does not receive industry funding to present NAMI's Signature Programs such as Family-to-Family, Peer-to-Peer, In Our Own Voice, NAMI Basics, etc. The State of Montana provides the primary funding stream for these programs, because they know that these education programs are critical to our states mental illness treatment system. If you choose to force NAMI National to no longer accept pharmaceutical company funding to develop these programs, I highly recommend that you replace those private donations with money from the federal government because these programs save lives. I would have given anything to have participated in one of them before I lost my family member to mental illness.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to your concerns about our funding sources. Please let me know if you have any further questions. I can be reached at (406) 443-7871 or at [matt@namimt.org](mailto:matt@namimt.org).

Sincerely,

Matt Kuntz, J.D.  
Executive Director  
NAMI Montana

## EXHIBIT A

October 19, 2009

Matt Kuntz  
Executive Director  
NAMI-Montana  
PO Box 1021  
Helena, MT 59624

Dear Matt:

This is in response to the request from Senator Grassley for information related to funds received from pharmaceutical companies. Our information is as follows:

NAMI-Billings has only received funds from AstraZeneca. The contribution amounts and years are as follows:

2005	\$ 500
2006	\$ 1000
2007	\$ 2000
2008	\$ 2000
2009	\$ 2000

All funds we given to us in response to our request for sponsorship of our annual bike ride. We gave none of the funds to NAMI Montana or to NAMI National. They were used for the operation of our services.

Our policy for accepting funds is that funds may not be in any way tied to favors or special needs. As you know, we are barely able to keep the doors open and have no power or favors to give in exchange for financial gifts.

AstraZeneca has never asked for any restrictions or special treatment in exchange for its donations. They simply sponsored our bike ride and therefore helped us with the costs of operation.

No records have been destroyed; NAMI-Billings isn't part of a world where such things are necessary.

If you need any additional information, be sure to let me know.

Sincerely,

Libby Artley  
Executive Director  
NAMI-Billings