



June 15, 2015

The Honorable Tim Murphy
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Murphy & Johnson:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), I am writing to express our thanks and support for your leadership in bringing forward reintroduction of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act (HR 2646) in the 114th Congress. We are extremely grateful for your efforts to support comprehensive legislation to improve mental health treatment, services and supports across the United States.

NAMI is the nation's largest organization representing children and adults living with mental illness and their families. In hundreds of communities throughout the nation, NAMI is engaged in education, support, public awareness and advocacy to improve the lives of people affected by mental illness and their families so they can achieve recovery, resiliency and wellness.

NAMI is pleased that HR 2646 includes a range of reforms that would improve our nation's failing public mental health system including efforts to focus on outcomes, break down barriers for consumers and families to access treatment, and expand the availability of evidence-based practices.

We are particularly appreciative of provisions in your legislation that will expand efforts to ensure full implementation and enforcement of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity (MHPAEA). Your legislation would also improve integration and program coordination across multiple federal agencies that serve people living with serious mental illness and remove discriminatory impediments to mental healthcare. HR 2646 also contains provisions designed to facilitate the integration of mental health and physical health care in Medicaid, spur early intervention in the treatment of psychosis, improve the use of health information technology in mental health care, remove discriminatory barriers in acute inpatient treatment in Medicaid and Medicare, and provide resources for suicide prevention.

NAMI thanks you once again for your leadership and tireless efforts on behalf of people affected by the most serious mental illnesses and their families. We believe that the goals of improving mental health treatment and services and promoting recovery and autonomy are compatible. We look forward to working with you to strengthen the role of consumers and families in federal oversight and on advocacy for recovery based services and supports.

Sincerely,

Mary Giliberti, J.D.
Executive Director