

July 13, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to urge you to bring S. 2680, the *Mental Health Reform Act of 2016*, to the Senate floor for a vote as quickly as possible. Last week, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to pass H.R. 2646, the *Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act*. It is now the Senate's turn to act.

Mental illness is widely prevalent in the United States. Over 68 million Americans have experienced mental illness in the past year which is more than 20 percent of the total population of the United States. Lifetime rates are much higher with some estimates approaching 50 percent. More striking, in 2013, over 41,000 Americans died by suicide. Many individuals with mental illness or substance use conditions are unable to access or receive the appropriate services and supports for these illnesses, and they remain constantly challenged by mental health service delivery systems that are largely fragmented and uncoordinated across the country.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee voted unanimously to advance S. 2680 in April. Notably, this bipartisan bill strengthens federal coordination of mental health resources, increases reporting on mental health parity, advances integrated service delivery, supports the mental health workforce, and increases early access to mental health services.

We now need your leadership to pass mental health reform and bring millions of Americans and their families help and hope.

Thank you for your consideration. We stand ready to work with you to ensure this critical first step in mental health reform can be sent to the President's desk for signature this year.

Sincerely,

American Psychiatric Association  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Nurses Association  
American Orthopsychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)

Clinical Social Work Guild 49  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Eating Disorders Coalition  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
Mental Health America  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
The National Association for Rural Mental Health  
The National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors  
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Council for Behavioral Health  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National League for Nursing  
National Register of Health Service Psychologists  
NHMH – No Health without Mental Health  
Sandy Hook Promise  
The Trevor Project