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June 8, 2015

The Honorable Tim Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Murphy and Johnson,

On behalf of Adventist HealthCare, and its affiliate the Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness, we are writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015. This critical legislation proposes important improvements and needed reforms to the nation's mental health system, through expanding evidence-based, science-driven treatments and research. We endorse the legislation, and are grateful for your leadership in introducing the bill.

Adventist HealthCare, based in Gaithersburg, Md., is a faith-based, not-for-profit organization of dedicated professionals who work together each day to provide excellent wellness, disease management and healthcare services to the community. Our integrated, healthcare delivery network includes five nationally accredited, acute-care and specialty hospitals, mental health services and home health agencies, serving the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and northwestern New Jersey. Adventist HealthCare's entities have been recognized nationally for the high-quality care provided to patients.

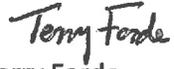
We are also proud of our affiliation with, and operation of, the Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness. The Lourie Center is a private, non-profit agency with a mission to understand and strengthen the emotional health of parent-child relationships within our community through early prevention, intervention, education, research and training. The Center was founded in 1983 by the late Dr. Reginald S. Lourie, a world-wide leader in the fields of pediatric child psychiatry and infant mental health, and his colleagues, including Dr. T. Berry Brazelton and Dr. Stanley Greenspan. The Center came about as an outgrowth of their six-year clinical research project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. In July 2006, the Center affiliated with Adventist HealthCare. Serving more than 4,000 children and families in the Washington metropolitan area, the Center is a pioneer and leader in the field of infant and child mental health.

We particularly want to highlight and thank you for Section 204 of the legislation, which would help advance and increase treatment in the early childhood area. The peer-reviewed evidence demonstrates the enormous potential that early childhood mental health intervention and treatment, even for those diagnosed as at risk as young as age 2, can have a significant impact in improving lives and saving costs. Your bill, and the early childhood programs addressed in Section 204, will help to expand mental health treatment to this very fragile population – changing the lives of children and their families for the better.



Again, thank you for your leadership and dedication to improving the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from mental illness. We look forward to working with you to pass this legislation this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Forde". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare