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Psychiatric Society**

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American Psychiatric Association

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November 26, 2014

The Honorable Tim Murphy, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murphy:

On behalf of the PA Psychiatric Society (PaPS), a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association with nearly 1,700 physician members in the commonwealth who practice the specialty of psychiatry, we would like to express our appreciation for your willingness to introduce the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, a significant piece of legislation aimed at addressing much needed reforms to our current public health delivery system.

At a time when untreated or undertreated serious mental illness, substance use or co-occurring disorders is at an unprecedented high, your willingness to tackle this important issue is exemplary. Despite media focus on suicide prevention, reducing stigma and increasing funding for medical research and public awareness, there are still so many obstacles to ensuring that the most appropriate treatment regimen is given to all individuals in need of important, often life-saving psychiatric treatment and supporting services. PaPS is grateful for your focus on funding additional medical research, advancing evidence-based and promising practices, and placing a much needed emphasis on psychiatric leadership at the federal level.

The Society supports your efforts in addressing the current inequities for those individuals with mental health, substance use and intellectual disability needs, highlighting the importance of psychiatric leadership within the highest levels of the Obama administration, and placing priority to addressing concerns with those needing a higher level of inpatient treatment and services.

It is our desire to work closely with you, your staff, the APA, and other important stakeholders as you reintroduce the bill, and as it moves throughout the legislative process to ensure that our concerns are addressed moving forward. As these are complex issues, we appreciate your eagerness to apply your own clinical knowledge to assist with these efforts, and to educate your colleagues about what is in the best interest of these individuals who desperately need to overcome addiction and often co-occurring disorders.

Sincerely,

Shivkumar S. Hatti, MD, MBA  
President

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Executive Director