



Saint Paulus Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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February 19, 2014

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
US House of Representatives
Washington DC

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

Saint Paulus Lutheran Church has been ministering among the homeless, marginalized, and discarded in San Francisco for decades. Particularly, we have seen firsthand and have accompanied the suffering of brothers and sisters who are afflicted with mental illness. We have advocated with public officials on their behalf, we have tended to their wounds, and we have grieved over the lack of compassion and service that characterizes our system. Again and again, the response to this population has been at best empty acknowledgement and promises, at worst, stigmatization. This must end.

Representative Tim Murphy of the 18th District of Pennsylvania has introduced legislation, "Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act" (HR 3717) that can make a difference in both the actual delivery of services for those in need and to embolden a renewed effort to make the issues of mental health and mental illness engagement a matter of civic consciousness and public awareness. We urge your support and advocacy for this piece of legislation, and to craft as you can, additional legislation that will finally engage in a positive way the crisis which afflicts not only our own people here in San Francisco, but those across the country.

Thank you for your leadership in advance in this cause.

Sincerely,

Daniel Solberg, on behalf of the Church Council of Saint Paulus Lutheran Church
San Francisco, CA

✓ Cc Representative Tim Murphy