

Sheppard Pratt Health System

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June 3, 2014

The Honorable Timothy Murphy, Ph.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Congressman Murphy:

I am writing on behalf of Sheppard Pratt Health System, Inc., a large, non-profit behavioral health system in Baltimore, MD, to express our organization's support of HR3717. We believe that this bill will improve care for individuals with mental illness.

In our work with individuals with mental illness and their families, we see firsthand the need for the large scale improvements to our country's mental health system that your bill calls for. We applaud your efforts to reduce fragmentation, to assure that adequate services are available, to get individuals in the criminal justice system the specialized care that they need, to assure that individuals can afford their psychiatric medications, to expand the reach of telepsychiatry, to rationalize privacy laws and the many other important recommendations of this bill.

We look forward to the day when the promise of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act is a reality and thank you for your efforts on behalf of the individuals who will benefit from its goals.

Sincerely,



Bonnie B. Katz
Vice President
Sheppard Pratt Health System