



June 14, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2123 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2123 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton & Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), I am writing to express our thanks and support for your leadership in bringing forward to the full Energy & Commerce Committee this newly revised version of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act (HR 2646). We are extremely grateful for your efforts to support legislation to improve mental health treatment, services and supports across the United States.

NAMI is the nation's largest organization representing children and adults living with mental illness and their families. In hundreds of communities throughout the nation, NAMI is engaged in education, support, public awareness and advocacy to improve the lives of people affected by mental illness and their families so they can achieve recovery, resiliency and wellness.

NAMI is pleased that HR 2646 includes a range of reforms that would improve our nation's failing public mental health system including efforts to focus on outcomes, break down barriers for consumers and families to access treatment, and expand the availability of evidence-based practices. NAMI also supports provisions in the revised legislation that will expand efforts to ensure full implementation and enforcement of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity (MHPAEA). This revised draft would also improve integration and program coordination across multiple federal agencies that serve people living with serious mental illness and remove discriminatory impediments to mental healthcare. HR 2646 also contains provisions designed to improve the integration of mental health and physical health care in Medicaid, strengthen crisis intervention and expand access to peer support services.

NAMI thanks you once again for your leadership and tireless efforts on behalf of people living with serious mental illness and their families. We believe that the goals of improving mental health treatment and services and promoting recovery and autonomy are compatible. We look forward to continuing to work with all members of the Committee to bring HR 2646 forward to the full House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Giliberti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Giliberti, J.D.
Chief Executive Officer