

# #MENTALHEALTHREFORM

S 2680, the Mental Health Reform Act of 2016

**1 in 5 Americans have a mental health condition. With the right care, recovery is possible. But, most people aren't getting the care they need because America's mental health system is broken.**

## Here are the facts:

- America's suicide rate is the highest it's been in 30 years.
- Half of Americans with mental illness did not get *any* mental health care in the past year.
- Mental health care is unfairly restricted by many health insurance plans.

It's time to strengthen our nation's mental health system. Bring the *Mental Health Reform Act of 2016*, S 2680, to a vote.

**S 2680 combats suicide in our schools and communities**, so precious lives are saved.

- Authorizes the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program
- Extends the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act to provide suicide prevention for all ages and creates a national suicide technical assistance center

**S 2680 increases the mental health workforce**, so more trained professionals are available to help.

- Creates a Minority Fellowship Program to increase the number of qualified, culturally-competent mental health professionals
- Reauthorizes grants to increase training of mental health professionals
- Authorizes grants for telehealth child psychiatry to provide remote psychiatric expertise to pediatric mental health and primary care practices

**S 2680 strengthens enforcement of the mental health parity law**, so health plans are held accountable for the coverage people paid for.

- Requires audits of plans that have five or more parity violations and reports to Congress on the result of completed federal parity investigations
- Requires additional federal guidance to help plans comply with the parity law
- Requires a federal action plan to enhance parity enforcement and a GAO parity study

**S 2680 invests in early intervention**, so people get the right mental health care at the right time to promote healthy lives.

- Requires 5% of state mental health block grant funds to be used to support evidence-based programs that address early serious mental illness, including psychotic disorders (such as First Episode Psychosis, or FEP, programs)
- Establishes grants for effective early childhood mental health programs

**S 2680 promotes integration of health and mental health care**, so people get care that treats the whole person, not just one condition.

- Supports training of medical residents, nurses, physician assistants and social workers to provide mental health services in integrated care settings in underserved areas
- Creates grants to support integrated primary and behavioral health care services

**S 2680 strengthens community crisis response systems**, so people experiencing a psychiatric crisis can get help sooner, before their condition worsens.

- Authorizes grants to enhance community crisis response services for people with mental illness or substance use disorders
- Authorizes grants to develop and maintain databases of crisis stabilization and psychiatric inpatient beds and beds at residential treatment facilities

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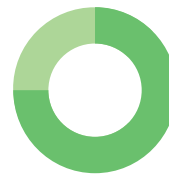
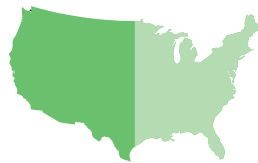
## SHARE THE FACTS

**1 IN 5** 

Americans are affected by mental illness in a given year.

**MORE THAN 50%**

of adults and children with mental health conditions received no mental health treatment in the past year.



**75%** of rural and frontier communities do not have any mental health professionals, affecting up to 45 million Americans.

Over **40,000** American lives are lost to suicide every year.

Suicide is the **2<sup>nd</sup>** leading cause of death among young people ages 15-24 years.



**Mental health and substance use disorders caused more hospitalizations among U.S. troops in 2009 than any other cause.**



Mental illness costs America **\$193.2 BILLION** in lost earnings each year.

**74**  
**WEEKS**  
(U.S.)

**7**  
**WEEKS**  
(U.K.)

The average delay from the first symptoms of psychosis to treatment in the U.S. and the United Kingdom.



**8.4 MILLION**

Americans provide care to an adult living with mental illness.

**3 OUT OF 4**

mental health caregivers report high levels of stress.

## FACTS ABOUT S 2680:

**Passing a bill could help**

- combat suicide in our schools and communities;
- improve access to mental health care by increasing the number of mental health professionals;
- and hold health insurance plans accountable for covering mental health fairly.



**2 MILLION**

Americans with mental health conditions languish in jails each year, often as a result of their illness.