

The Mental Health Reform Act of 2016: *A bill to address the mental health crisis in America*

The facts on mental illness:

- 1 in 5 adults had a mental health condition in the past year, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Nearly 10 million adults have illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression that interfere with a major life activity
- 60 percent of adults with mental illness didn't receive mental health services in 2014
- Only about half of adolescents with a mental illness receive treatment for their condition
- Mental illnesses that remain untreated can lead to dropping out of school, substance use disorders, incarceration, unemployment, homelessness, and suicide
- Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, and 90 percent of those who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness

The MENTAL HEALTH REFORM ACT of 2016 will:

Ensures that mental health programs are effectively serving those with mental illness: The bill will improve coordination between federal agencies and departments that provide grants and services for individuals with mental illness, and will improve accountability and evaluations of mental health programs.

Helps states meet the needs of those suffering from mental illness: This bill helps to ensure that federal dollars support states in providing quality mental health care for individuals suffering from mental illness by updating the block grant for states.

Promotes the use of evidence-based approaches, promising best practices in mental health care: The bill requires that the federal agencies and programs involved in mental health policy incorporate the most up-to-date and evidence-based approaches for treating mental illness, and requires that agency leadership include mental health professionals who have practical experience.

Improves access to mental health care: The bill improves access to care for individuals including veterans and service members, homeless individuals, women, and children. It also helps improve the training for those who care for individuals with mental illnesses and substance use disorders, and promotes better enforcement of existing mental health parity laws.