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The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

The failure of behavioral healthcare community providers to receive payments over the past 11-½ months on signed Department of Human Services FY 2016 contracts has crippled Illinois' behavioral healthcare system.

The impact of no payments for services delivered has fallen on the parents of children, women, and adults with mental health and substance use disorders who need the care and services. In a just completed June 2016 survey of our membership, the impact of the FY'16 budget impasse reveals the following:

- **76%** of community mental health and substance use treatment and prevention providers have been forced to shut down programs or reduce services.
- **76%** of individuals seeking to see a psychiatrist have **wait times ranging from 2 to 4 months, while 24% have wait times that range from 4 months to more than 6 months.**
- **The state owes CBHA members (65) an estimated \$85,536,267** for services rendered under the FY'16 contract and delayed Medicaid payments.
- Community providers have **waiting lists ranging from 12 to 200 individuals per month.**

Regarding the waiting list, many of these individuals usually end up in more expensive emergency rooms, hospital inpatient facilities, jails or, even, dead. Yes, dead. In one instance for example, since the budget impasse began, a parent called a substance use provider to tell the agency that they could remove her son from the waiting list because he had died from an overdose.

Our agencies and the people that they serve need a lifeline.

We urge you to sign SB 2038 (HAM 2), a bill that passed the House 111-000-003 and the Senate 056-000-000, and which was sent to you on May 18, 2016.

We also understand that the money contained in the emergency funding legislation is only a temporary solution. Like you, we agree that the General Assembly needs to continue to work to find a permanent FY'16 and FY'17 budget solution.

However, the funding in SB 2038 is critical to mending our fractured behavioral healthcare system and is critical to any hope that the state may have for launching its long-heralded "transformation" and is critical to, yes, saving lives.

Please sign SB 2038.

Thank you,

Marvin Lindsey, CEO