



## NAMI'S SUPPORT FOR THE HELPING FAMILIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT

As many of you may know, NAMI has taken a position on the **Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015 (HR 2646)**. NAMI reviewed the legislation, scrutinized each provision and has submitted a letter of support to Representatives Tim Murphy (R-PA) and Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) indicating their appreciation for their leadership and their commitment to work to pass comprehensive mental health legislation.

There are several positive provisions in the bill, such as improvements to the integration of mental healthcare and physical healthcare in Medicaid and stronger enforcement of the mental health insurance parity law. However, there are provisions that can often spark debate within NAMI, such as Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and access to information for caregivers, the role of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Protection and Advocacy System and Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT). We know that the opinions on these issues are strong and diverse. However, after careful review and consideration of these provisions, NAMI ultimately concluded that HR 2646 takes a more thoughtful approach to these complex issues than the prior legislation.



If you would like to share your thoughts, NAMI has set up an email address, [MHpolicy@nami.org](mailto:MHpolicy@nami.org), for you to do so.

Click [HERE](#) to read NAMI's full letter to Representatives Murphy and Johnson.