



June 30, 2020

The Honorable Robert Latta
U.S. House of Representatives
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), I am writing to offer our strong support for HR 7147, your legislation to create a new 5% set aside in the Mental Health Block Grant program for evidence-based Crisis Care Services. As the nation's largest organization representing people living with mental illness and their families, NAMI is grateful for your leadership in bringing this legislation forward.

Across the country, our state and local NAMI organizations see an increased need for mental health crisis care services to improve our nation's mental health and combat the suicide and opioid epidemics. In response to this need local communities are developing innovative approaches in crisis response ranging from centrally deployed 24/7 mobile crisis units, short-term residential crisis stabilization programs, the implementation of evidence-based protocols for treating individuals at risk of suicide, and regional or statewide crisis call centers coordinating in real time. There is an emerging body of evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of these approaches as an alternative to heavy reliance by local communities on law enforcement and emergency medical as the sole response to mental health crises.

HR 7147 will allow states to bring these innovative approaches to scale, similar to the progress that has occurred in recent years with the separate set aside in the Mental Health Block Grant for early intervention in psychosis.

NAMI appreciates your efforts to advance evidence-based approaches to mental health crisis intervention. We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Kibell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end of the last name.



Angela Kimball