



June 30, 2020

The Honorable Robert E. Latta
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

Thank you for introducing H.R. 7147, The Creating Resources to Improve Situations of Inherent Severity Act, or CRISIS Act. This piece of legislation is crucial as states, including Ohio, are struggling with the impact that the opiate epidemic and suicide have taken over the past decade. As we put the stresses and impacts from Covid, including increased anxiety and financial difficulties caused by the pandemic, on top of the mental health issues already identified, the need for crisis services is vital to keeping Ohio's communities safe and healthy for all citizens.

Every day, we at the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF), hear of the pain and struggle of families as they deal with the loss of a loved one, many times due to the need for enhanced crisis care. We currently lose five people every day to suicide in the Buckeye State and this legislation would be key to helping families and individuals struggling to find help for their loved ones who experience a crisis situation. I have been to the funerals of many families who now live with grief, many times because crisis services were not adequate to provide the level of care needed for individuals struggling with mental health. OSPF is currently working with other state partners, including public and private stakeholders, to improve crisis services in the State, as we are reminded daily about the importance of crisis management to those experiencing mental health and substance use issues.

Please know, from the work that the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation does with state partners and local communities, that this legislation and focus on crisis services will save lives. We are grateful that you have introduced H.R. 7147 and for your commitment to improving systems of care for Ohio and the nation, specifically those with critical behavioral health needs. I also encourage you to contact me if you need any additional information or resources regarding suicide prevention and the need for superior crisis care for those in need.

Sincerely,

Tony Coder
Executive Director