

MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

Invest in Mental Health. Treatment works.

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Mental Health Summit Endorses House Bill 1448

House Bill 1448, introduced by Representative Lee Daniels, would amend the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrative Act to create and maintain the Bureau for Mentally Ill and Substance Abusing Children and Adolescents. The bureau will ensure that children and adolescents with mental illness and substance abuse receive comprehensive family and community based care.

This bill received unanimous support in the House of Representatives, passing 109-0, after passing unanimously from the Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness Committee. The Mental Health Summit urges you to vote “yes” for HB 1448 for the following reasons:

- A significant number of mentally ill children and adolescents also abuse illicit drugs or alcohol.
- Treatment resources for children and adolescents with combined mental illness and substance abuse are scarce. Without comprehensive services that integrate mental health and additional treatment into a single program, children and adolescents will continue to suffer.
- Currently there is not a bureau that addresses the specific needs of children and adolescents with both mental illness and substance abuse.
- Research demonstrates that youth with mental illness and substance abuse respond to family and community based systems of care. Such treatment systems allow families to be involved in planning, implementing, and evaluating treatment options.
- Illinois will incur future expense if these children and adolescents do not receive services tailored to their needs.

Please vote “yes” on HB 1448 when it reaches a vote of the full Senate.

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