

M E N T A L H E A L T H S U M M I T

Invest in Mental Health. Treatment works.

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Summit Urges Passage of House Bill 759

House Bill 759, sponsored by Representatives Lou Lang, Sandra M. Pihos, Jack D. Franks, Patricia R. Bellock, Patrick J. Verschoore, Jack McGuire, and Senator Susan Garrett would provide comprehensive mental health services to children diagnosed with mental illness who are in the care of the Department of Children and Family Services. The bill received unanimous support in the House of Representatives, passing 113-0. The Mental Health Summit urges you to support HB 759 for the following reasons:

- Mental illness in children and adolescents is significant and on the rise. There are a substantial number of children and adolescents with serious mental illness in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services.
- Current services for children and adolescents with mental illness in custody are inadequate. Without adequate care, children and adolescents with mental illness will continue to suffer while in custody.
- Children with untreated or inadequately treated mental illness have a greatly diminished future as adults because of their inability to succeed in school, develop social skills and comply with social norms.
- The failure to treat childhood mental illness promptly and effectively increases delinquency and imposes substantial costs on Illinois' already overburdened social service system.
- No assessment system currently exists to evaluate the needs of children and adolescents in each mental health community network. The assessment required by HB759 will assist the state to identify and close service gaps in a thoughtful and efficient manner.

Please support HB 759 when it reaches a vote of the full Senate.

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