

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has reported that 1 in 5 adults in the United States suffer from mental health disorders; and

WHEREAS, nearly 10 million adults suffer from serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression; and

WHEREAS, untreated mental illness imposes large costs individuals and families and can lead to school drop-out, substance abuse, incarceration, unemployment, homelessness, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, 60 percent of adults with mental illness did not receive mental health services, and only half of adolescents with a mental illness received treatment; and

WHEREAS, untreated mental illness has reached unprecedented levels in the United States; however, existing resources are insufficient to address the full scope of this nationwide crisis; and

WHEREAS, economic uncertainty, decreased social services, and the continued stigmatization of mental illness has exacerbated the shortcomings of the existing mental health care system; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in the United States Senate is S. 2680 (Alexander), the Mental Health Reform Act of 2016, which would make various reforms to the national mental health care system in order to enable increased access for patients with a serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, S. 2680 would provide additional resources for states to meet the needs of those suffering from mental illness, and would promote evidence-based practices to ensure that up-to-date approaches for treating mental illness are used; and

WHEREAS, the bill would also establish a new grant program to enhance coordination between emergency responders, health care providers, law enforcement, and courts to provide better care to patients in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, S. 2680 has strong bipartisan support and is an important step to address the severe lack of capacity in inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment as well as the devastating consequences that untreated mental illness brings to individuals and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-16 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT S. 2680 (Alexander), the Mental Health Reform Act of 2016, which would provide additional resources to address the mental health care crisis.

PRESENTED BY:


JOE BUSCAINO

Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:

 for David Ryn

BMR

ORIGINAL


APR 20 2016

 

 