



**ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-09-02:  
SUPPORT OF HR 2646: HELPING FAMILIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT OF 2015**

**WHEREAS**, United States Congressman Tim Murphy introduced HR 2646: Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015, on June 4, 2015; and,

**WHEREAS**, in response to a top-to-bottom review of the country's mental health system beginning in January 2013, H.R. 2646: Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015, was designed to fix the nation's broken mental health system by refocusing programs, reforming grants, and removing federal barriers to care; and,

**WHEREAS**, the review found that while the federal government dedicates \$130 billion towards mental health each year, the mental health system has deficits, such as:

- Nationwide shortage of nearly 100,000 needed psychiatric beds.
- Three of the largest mental health "hospitals" are in fact criminal incarceration facilities (*LA County, Cook County, and Rikers Island jails*).
- Privacy rules frustrate physicians and families and generate nearly 8,000 official complaints yearly.
- One child psychiatrist is available for every 2,000 children with a mental health disorder.
- In Cuyahoga County, Ohio, there is one child psychiatrist for every 428 children with a mental health disorder, based on the assumption that the 111 child psychiatrists in the county are accepting new patients.

**WHEREAS**, this legislation also emphasizes that the Country should be treating mental illnesses just like we treat every other chronic disease, such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY:**

1. Believes that the Country's Mental Health System is in need of reform to better serve individuals and families living with mental illness and/or addictions.
2. Strongly supports HR 2646: Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015.
3. Directs the Chief Executive Officer to provide a copy of this resolution to each member of the Ohio Delegation in the United States House of Representatives and Senate.

On the motion of Ericka Thoms, seconded by Eileen Saffran, LISW-S, the foregoing resolution was adopted unanimously.

**AYES:** D. Biegel, R. Blue, E. Caraballo, C. Handler, P. Jones, C. Rerko, R. Romaniuk, E. Saffran, H. Snider, E. Thoms, M. Warr

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**DATE ADOPTED:** September 30, 2015