

October 16, 2015

Senator Bill Cassidy  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chris Murphy  
136 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cassidy and Murphy:

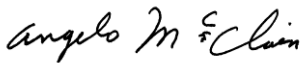
I am writing today on behalf of the 132,000 members of the National Association of Social Workers to lend our support to S. 1945, the Mental Health Reform Act of 2015.

Social workers are often at the front lines of providing mental health services to individuals and families in mental health crises. Clinical social workers represent the largest group of behavioral health practitioners in the nation. They are often the first to diagnose and treat people with mental disorders and various emotional and behavioral disturbances.

This legislation is a comprehensive effort to improve the lives of individuals and families living with mental health conditions. It seeks to integrate physical and mental health, designate an Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, establish new grant programs for early intervention, establish an Interagency Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee, establish a new National Mental Health Policy Laboratory, reauthorize successful research & grant programs, strengthen transparency and enforcement of mental health parity and improve mental health services within Medicare/Medicaid.

Thank you for your work on this important legislation. We look forward to working with you to realize its passage.

Sincerely,



Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW  
Chief Executive Officer