

Dear Editor:

Mental health care is an issue that faces many people in Georgia. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, about 56% of adults with mental health disorders do not receive treatment, and Georgia's overall mental health system ranks #34 in the nation (NAMI, 2018). In light of the recent school shootings, mental health has been a large topic of discussion in the nation. It is becoming clearer that there is a lack of policy on how people with mental health issues are to receive treatment. Many times, individuals are unable to receive the help they need until there has been a crisis and someone is hurt.

House Bill 607 has been presented to the Georgia General Assembly and is in the process of being voted in as a law. This legislation presents the Psychiatric Advance Directive, which will allow individuals to develop a plan of action to help them receive treatment during a psychotic episode when he or she is not of sound mind. It allows the individual to decide his or her own course of treatment, while he or she is able to think clearly so when a psychotic episode occurs, people that are close to the individual will be able to implement the plan of action. We need to help put this law into effect so that we can prevent crises related to mental health and avoid devastation at the individual, family, and community level.

Sincerely,

Brianna Cheever

Dalton State College Social Work Student