

September 25, 2023

6220 Shallowford Road Apt 497

Chattanooga, Tn 37421

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann

U.S. House of Representatives

900 Georgia Ave #126

Chattanooga, Tn 37402

Dear Representative Fleischmann,

I am writing to you as a constituent and a social work graduate student of Southern Adventist University. I am writing to you to urge your support for legislation to enforce treatment and transportation for individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis and need treatment.

At my practicum at Volunteer Behavior Crisis Walk-in Center, I have witnessed needless and prolonged suffering of individuals and their families due to being denied treatment. We desperately need legislation that enforces laws already in place for mental health treatment. Depending on the county, transporting clients to hospitals is extremely difficult. WE need a nationwide law that requires law enforcement to transport a person on a Certificate of Need. We also need legislation that requires hospitals to treat a person who meets criteria for a CON. Currently we are seeing clients CON'S being rescinded at a rate of 80%. These clients get discharged from hospitals without proper treatment. These are clients who are at a high risk of committing suicide or are so psychotic that they are unable to keep themselves out of danger. It is extremely scary to think that at any time, I could have a family member become unable to keep themselves safe and not receive treatment. Often times, when people are discharged, they are simply put out of the hospital without transportation or family notified. This is extremely dangerous to the individual as well as the community. A person who is psychotic may not be coherent enough to refrain from wandering into traffic.

I urge you to consider legislation to ensure our loved ones get cared for and treated with their right to dignity and compassion of every human being.

Sincerely,

Lauretta Rogers