HLS 14RS-612 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2014

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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 153

## BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY BURNS

CONGRESS: Memorializes the United States Congress to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the
3	Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013.
4	WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mental
5	illness is defined as "health conditions that are characterized by alterations in thinking,
6	mood, or behavior (or some combination thereof) associated with distress and/or impaired
7	function"; and
8	WHEREAS, approximately sixty-one million five hundred thousand Americans
9	experience mental illness in a given year; and
10	WHEREAS, approximately thirteen million six hundred thousand Americans live
11	with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder;
12	and
13	WHEREAS, more than eleven million Americans have severe schizophrenia, bipolar
14	disorder, and major depression; and
15	WHEREAS, one-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of fourteen; and
16	WHEREAS, fewer than one-third of adults and one-half of children with a diagnosed
17	mental disorder receive mental health services in a given year; and
18	WHEREAS, individuals living with mental health challenges and their families soon
19	discover that the illness affects many aspects of their lives and that they need more than
20	medical help; and

1	WHEREAS, many loved ones are left feeling hopeless in receiving effective and
2	appropriate treatment for their family members who suffer from mental illness; and
3	WHEREAS, there is a need to better allocate current resources to focus on the most
4	effective services and most severe mental illnesses; and
5	WHEREAS, it is prudent to promote stronger interagency coordination, increase data
6	collection on treatment outcomes, and raise efforts to drive evidence-based care; and
7	WHEREAS, Congressman Tim Murphy of Pennsylvania has introduced the Helping
8	Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 as H.R. 3717; and
9	WHEREAS, the bill will create within the Department of Health and Human Services
10	a new assistant secretary for mental health and substance-abuse disorders who would lead
11	federal mental illness efforts, be responsible for promoting the medically oriented models
12	of care adopted by the National Institute of Mental Health, and oversee the grant process
13	while holding community centers accountable by ensuring they are meeting evidence-based
14	standards; and
15	WHEREAS, H.R. 3717 would push states to efficiently allocate funds towards
16	modernizing mental illness state laws and raise support for community mental health centers
17	and hospital psychiatric care; and
18	WHEREAS, to address issues regarding the shortage of psychiatric professionals, the
19	Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 would advance medical tools like tele-
20	psychiatry which links primary physicians in underserved areas to psychiatric professionals
21	in order to decrease the average span of time between an initial episode of psychosis for a
22	patient and his preliminary evaluation and treatment procedures; and
23	WHEREAS, H.R. 3717 would give physicians legal safe harbor to volunteer at
24	understaffed mental health centers; and
25	WHEREAS, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 will adjust
26	the federal privacy law known as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act,
27	by allowing mental health professionals and families to share information about loved ones
28	to promote more appropriate and effective treatment procedures.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

- 2 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the
- 3 Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013.
- 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 5 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
- 6 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Henry Burns HCR No. 153

Memorializes congress to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013.