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January 26, 2016

The Honorable Jim Boyd
Florida House of Representatives
Room 322, The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Representative Boyd:

As mothers of sons with a mental illness and members of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), we are alarmed by the mental health crisis in Florida as it remains 49th or 50th in the nation in state funds provided per capita and is now the third most populous state.

Please advocate for or support any bills introduced this session that:

Restore the \$100 million in budget cuts that have occurred since 2008 for staffing at the six state mental health hospitals that resulted in the horrific conditions exposed last fall by the *Tampa Bay Times* and *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*.

Fund residency programs for psychiatrics as 17 counties have none. Federal guidelines that exclude “institutions for mental disease”, which include local mental health facilities, from receiving Graduate Medical Education (GME) funds are largely responsible for this shortage.

Fund new residential addictions treatment facilities and provide more beds at current ones to combat the heroin epidemic.

Continue to fund Family Intensive Treatment (FIT) teams to support families challenged by substance abuse and mental illness, promote child safety, and offer treatment.

Fund jail diversion programs such as Outpatient Assisted Treatment plans to decrease the high percentages of mentally ill in our jails (more than a third in our Manatee County jail) and prisons and reduce the rate high rates of recidivism.

Fund programs for reentry into communities by those leaving the jails or mental health facilities by providing residential programs offering affordable housing, supervision, treatment, etc.

Ensure compliance with the 2008 federal Parity law that generally prevents group health plans and health insurance issuers that provide mental health or substance use disorder benefits from imposing less favorable benefit limitations on those benefits than on medical/surgical benefits.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret at 941/896-3638 or maggiemoore@yahoo.com or Janey Muranyi at 941/739-3975 or janemuranyi@gmail.com. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

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Members of the Florida legislature seen by the NAMI-MANATEE COUNTY advocate committee:

THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. REP. JIM BOYD (R), District 71, including parts of **Manatee** and Sarasota; Vice Chair, Appropriations Committee
2. REP. JASON BRODEUR (R), Chair, Health and Human Services Committee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Vice Chair, Select Committee on Affordable Health Care Access
3. REP. RICHARD CORCORAN (R), Chair, Appropriations Committee; next Speaker of the House
4. REP. STEVE CRISAFULLI (R), Speaker of the House
5. REP. JULIO GONZALEZ (R), District 74, including part of Sarasota; Member, Health Quality Subcommittee
6. REP. MATT HUDSON (R), Speaker Pro Tempore of the House; Chair, Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Member, Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee
7. REP. MIA L. JONES (D), Minority Leader Pro Tempore; Democratic Ranking Member, Health and Human Services Committee; Appropriations Committee and Health Innovation Subcommittee
8. REP. AMANDA MURPHY (D), Democratic Ranking Member
9. REP. MARK PAFFORD (D), Minority (Democratic) Leader
10. REP. KATHLEEN M. PETERS (R), Member, Appropriations Committee; Vice Chair, Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee; Member, Justice Subcommittee
11. REP. RAY PILON (R); District 72, part of Sarasota; Member, Appropriations Committee
12. REP. KENNETH L. "KEN" ROBERSON (R), Chair, Health Innovation Subcommittee, Member; Health and Human Services Committee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

13. REP. DARRYL ERVIN ROUSON (D), District 70, including parts of **Manatee**, Sarasota; Democratic Ranking Member; Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice Appropriations
14. REP. GREGORY "GREG" STEUBE (R), District 73, including parts of **Manatee**, Sarasota; Member Appropriations Committee; Vice Chair Health Quality Subcommittee; Member, Health Quality Committee
15. REP. DANA YOUNG (R), Majority Leader; Member, Appropriations Committee

THE FLORIDA SENATE

1. SENATOR ROB BRADLEY (R), Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice
2. SENATOR NANCY DETERT (R), Member, Children, Families and Elder Affairs
3. SENATOR RENE GARCIA (R), Appropriations Health Quality Subcommittee
4. SENATOR ANDY GARDINER (R), President of the Senate
5. SENATOR BILL GALVANO (R), District 26, **Manatee**; Majority (Republican) Leader; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health Policy
6. SENATOR DENISE GRIMSLEY (R); Deputy Majority (Republican) Leader; Appropriations Committee on Health Policy; Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
7. SENATOR ARTHENIA L. JOYNER (D); District 19, including **Manatee**; Minority (Democratic) Leader; Vice Chair of Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Subcommittee on Health Policy;
8. SENATOR TOM LEE (R), Chair, Appropriations Committee
9. SENATOR GARRET RICHTER (R), President Pro Tempore of the Senate; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
10. SENATOR ELEANOR SOBEL (D), Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Vice Chair of Committee on Health Policy