

## Support SB1633/HB2572: Children/Young Adult Mental Health Crisis Act

Sen. Steans; Rep. Feigenholtz

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### Illinois' Mental Health System for Youth Is Severely Limited

- Mental health treatment can mean wellness, recovery, school completion and becoming a healthy adult.
- When treatment is not available early enough to stabilize a child with a serious mental health condition: crisis, hospitalizations, justice involvement, and worsening symptoms occur.
- Restricted access to treatment results in unnecessary tragedy: Hundreds of children with treatable serious mental health conditions remain in hospitals beyond medical necessity every year; suicide; and custody relinquishment simply to access the appropriate mental health services.

### Support SB1633/HB2572: Children/Young Adult Mental Health Crisis Act

*This legislation fills in major treatment gaps in Illinois' mental health system for children and young adults.*

- **Restructures the Individual Care Grant/Family Support Program (ICG/FSP)** for children/young adults with mental health high needs (regardless of type of insurance coverage) to streamline eligibility, promote family engagement, and enable early treatment
  - ✓ Enables presumptive eligibility for children up to age 26 with multiple psychiatric hospitalizations
  - ✓ Includes coverage of Medicaid mental health/substance use services to prevent out-of-home placement
  - ✓ Enables access to recommended, family-driven treatment, rather than a restricted set of program services
  - ✓ Grows short-term crisis beds and a limited number of high-acuity residential treatment beds
  - ✓ Allows for supportive housing model for young adults who need residential treatment to stabilize
  - ✓ Establishes family leadership councils, and creates family and provider awareness campaigns
- **Requires private insurance coverage of evidence-based early treatment models for psychosis** and other serious mental health conditions for youth under age 30 to parallel coverage through the public sector.
  - ✓ Coverage sunsets in five years if an independent study shows rise in premiums of greater than 1%.
- **Provides for more robust treatment options under Medicaid for prevention/early treatment**
  - ✓ Allows preventative services for children without a diagnosis who demonstrate a treatment need
  - ✓ Strengthens In-Home Therapy to build family resilience/parenting skills for high mental health needs children
  - ✓ Creates mental health services guide to help families identify and understand treatment options
  - ✓ Provides for educational materials to be provided regularly to adoptive parents on treatment resources
  - ✓ Enables better substance use treatment re-engagement for people who haven't received services for a short period of time (allows the treatment case to remain open for 90 days)
  - ✓ Establishes workgroup in the Governor's Office to facilitate state agency alignment as Illinois implements the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, NB Consent Decree, and children's Medicaid residential treatment facilities.