

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.

1 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.