

# Action Alert

State Edition

## URGENT!

### MENTAL HEALTH PARITY ACT

CALL members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee - and get everyone you know to call as well! Ask senators on the committee vote YES on House Bill 1013, the Mental Health Parity Act, when it comes up for a vote.

What's in the Bill: [Quick Summary](#)

#### Why It Matters

Workforce, payer practices, and case management in our behavioral health systems for kids and adults face challenges that need systemic improvements to function well and serve Georgians. Consider these numbers:

- In Georgia, suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among children
- In 2019, 94% of Georgia's youth suicides were preventable
- Children with ADHD, autism, or developmental delays are twice as likely to be chronically absent compared to kids without these conditions
- An estimated 50-70% of youth in Department of Juvenile Justice long-term facilities have a mental health diagnosis severe enough to require ongoing treatment
- 78 Georgia counties do not have a licensed psychologist
- 53 Georgia counties do not have a licensed social worker
- 45 Georgia counties do not have a licensed psychologist OR a licensed social worker

For Voices' factsheet on the crisis in child and adolescent health, [click here](#).

#### What to Say (CALLING WILL WORK BEST!)

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

Please vote YES on the Mental Health Parity Act, House Bill 1013, when it comes up for a vote in committee. This bipartisan bill will not only ensure that children and their caregivers have access to the services they need to address behavioral health challenges, but it will also help expand our behavioral health workforce and lay crucial groundwork for future improvements in behavioral health case management and service provision across Georgia. Thank you for your service and for all you do for the children of our great state.

#### Who to Contact

Contact members of the [Senate Health and Human Services](#) committee.