

MENTAL HEALTH

Focusing on children’s mental health

Mental health services for children and youth / HB 2439 – By addressing the mental health needs of children, we can reduce the future need for treatment. HB 2439 will establish the Children’s Mental Health Work Group to identify ways to increase access to mental health services for children and families. All children deserve a strong developmental foundation. For some children, this will require extra support and services. By reaching children and their families early on, we can make a difference in the overall mental health picture for our state.



Ricky’s Law: Aligning our values when it comes to chemical dependency

Integrating treatment systems / HB 1713 - In Washington, it’s expected that if you’re suffering from a mental health crisis, you get help. If you are a grave risk to yourself, or others, due to a mental health disorder, you can be committed, but that’s not the same standard when it comes to our loved ones suffering from a substance abuse disorder. Unlike mental health patients, if you’re chemically dependent you don’t have the same options available to you. But we can fix all that by aligning our mental health and chemical dependency systems to treat patients equally with a unified involuntary commitment law. It’s the right way to treat our loved ones when they need our help.

Suicide prevention

Suicide awareness and prevention / HB 2793 – Suicide is a tragedy that can affect a family at any time. When a loved one is suffering, it’s important that we get them help immediately. This bill raises public awareness and increases suicide prevention education. We’re bringing together stakeholders in government, suicide prevention organizations, firearms advocates and organizations, and individuals who have experienced suicide loss, as well as health professionals, law enforcement, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Together, these groups will help us create a public awareness campaign, develop trainings on suicide awareness, and increase advocacy efforts and trainings on suicide awareness and prevention education.