



House Health and Human Services Committee

February 7, 2017

Presented by:

Rick Cagan

Executive Director

NAMI Kansas is the state organization of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a grassroots organization whose members are individuals living with mental illnesses and their family members who provide care and support. NAMI Kansas provides programs of peer support and education by and for our members through a statewide network of 13 local affiliates. We advocate for individuals who are living with mental illness to ensure their access to treatment and supportive services.

We urge you to support HB 2031.

We support efforts to improve quality of life for Kansans living with mental illness through palliative care. Individuals and families living with mental illness need support to address not only the side effects of illness and treatment, but also socioemotional, spiritual and other challenges. The advisory council on palliative care can identify ways to improve access to supportive care for families facing any type of serious illness, including mental illness. The palliative care consumer and professional education program will ensure that patients, caregivers and health care providers understand the opportunities available through palliative care.

Supporting quality of life for families facing mental illness through patient-centered and family focused palliative care will enable Kansans living with mental illness to enjoy better quality of life and contribute to their communities.

Thank you for your consideration.