



STATE SENATOR
CHARLETA B. TAVARES

15TH DISTRICT

Sponsor Testimony
Presented by: Senator Charleta B. Tavares
Senate Concurrent Resolution 24
Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
Senator David Burke, Chair
Tuesday June 26, 2018

Good morning Chairman Burke and members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee; Thank you for giving Senator Hackett and I the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 24. Senate Concurrent Resolution 24 aims to raise awareness regarding the prevalence of mental illness in the United States and Ohio. The resolution would express the General Assembly's support of any initiatives or actions meant to increase the accessibility and availability of resources used to aid those dealing with mental health issues in the State.

With Ohio ranking twelfth in the prevalence of mental illness in adults, it is imperative that we, as representatives of Ohio's

populace, outwardly support and encourage efforts to increase both public awareness about mental illness and the availability of mental health treatment and services. It is time that Ohio take a stand to support the mentally ill in our State so that we can be an example for other States as we fight to eliminate the stigma, expand care and support our citizens.

Chairman Burke and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to this issue and I respectfully request your favorable consideration and passage of SCR 24. Thank you and Senator Hackett and I are happy to respond to questions from the committee.