



National Lieutenant Governors Association

1 **Resolution Supporting Access to Mental Health Medications**

2 **WHEREAS**, schizophrenia is the 15th leading cause of disability worldwide¹ and an assessment of the
3 economic costs of schizophrenia in the United States was calculated to be \$281 billion in 2020,² and

4 **WHEREAS**, bipolar disorder is the 25th leading cause of disability worldwide³ and the estimated total
5 annual national economic burden of bipolar disorder was more than \$195 billion, with approximately 25%
6 attributed to direct medical costs,⁴ and

7 **WHEREAS**, over 380,000 emergency department visits annually involved adults with schizophrenia⁵ and
8 about one-half of these visits led to either a hospital admission (32.7%) or a transfer to a psychiatric
9 hospital (16.7%),⁶ and

10 **WHEREAS**, The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Statistical Brief identifies schizophrenia as
11 the 7th most common diagnosis for all cause 30-day adult hospital readmissions across all insurers,⁷ and

12 **WHEREAS**, over 1 in 5 homeless persons are living with a serious mental illness,⁸ and 2 million people
13 with serious mental illness are jailed every year,⁹ and

14 **WHEREAS**, certain serious mental illnesses can be effectively treated with FDA-approved medications.

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA)
16 supports strategies to improve access to medications for individuals with serious mental illnesses.

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports open access or limited use of prior authorization
18 or fail first policies for medications used to treat serious mental illnesses.

¹Vos, Theo, et al. "Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 328 diseases and injuries for 195 countries, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016." *The Lancet* 390.10100 (2017): 1211-1259

²Schizophrenia and Psychosis Action Alliance (2021). Societal Costs of Schizophrenia and Related Disorders, accessible [here](#).

³Vos, Theo, et al. "Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 328 diseases and injuries for 195 countries, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016." *The Lancet* 390.10100 (2017): 1211-1259

⁴"The Economic Burden of Bipolar Disorder in the United States; A Systematic Literature Review". *ClinicoEconomics and Outcomes Research* 2020:12 481–497, accessible [here](#)

⁵Albert M, McCaig LF. Emergency department visits related to schizophrenia among adults aged 18–64: United States, 2009–2011. NCHS data brief, no 215. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2015

⁶Albert M, McCaig LF. Emergency department visits related to schizophrenia among adults aged 18–64: United States, 2009–2011. NCHS data brief, no 215. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2015

⁷Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Statistical Brief, titled "Overview of Clinical Conditions With Frequency and Costly Hospital Readmissions by Payer, 2018. <https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb278-Conditions-Frequent-Readmissions-By-Payer-2018.pdf>

⁸US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_NatlTerrDC_2020.pdf

⁹US Dept of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA. Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee, *The Way Forward: Federal Action for a System That Works for All People Living With SMI and SED and Their Families and Caregivers (Report to Congress)*, p. 1.



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19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA supports recently adopted strategies in Texas,¹⁰
20 Florida,¹¹ Georgia,¹² Michigan¹³ and Maine¹⁴ recognizing the importance of access to FDA-approved
21 medications that allow the patient and their prescriber to determine their treatment plan, including
medication.

ADOPTED, this day, the 22nd of July, 2022.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist (D – Michigan), Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (R – Iowa)

¹⁰Texas [HB2822](#)

¹¹Florida [SB 534](#)

¹² Georgia [HB1013](#)

¹³ Michigan [SB412](#)

¹⁴ Maine [L.D.1268](#)