



NAMI Johnson County

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To Whom it May Concern,

In January 2015, the Food and Drug Administration approved Vyvanse as treatment for moderate to severe binge eating disorders (BED) in adults. An estimated 2.8 million adults in the US suffer from BED.

In May 2013, the American Psychiatric Association formally recognized BED as a distinct psychiatric disorder; and Vyvanse is currently the only FDA-approved pharmacologic treatment for this condition.

In August 2015, a Kansas physician filed a petition, which was granted, with the Kansas Board of Healing Arts (BOHA) to allow Kansas physicians to prescribe Vyvanse for the treatment of moderate to severe BED among adults.

However, due to a 1984 Kansas statute that prohibits physicians from prescribing certain categories of medication, in which Vyvanse is included, a physician would be subject to adverse actions on his or her medical license if he or she prescribed Vyvanse for this condition, despite the BOHA ruling. Obviously this has created some confusion to Kansas physicians as well as to the public.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Johnson County, a local advocacy organization dedicated to helping improve the lives of those affected by mental illness, supports efforts that are focused on helping individuals who suffer from mental health disorders, including effective treatments for adults suffering from moderate to severe binge eating disorders. We therefore support passage of HB 2455.

Sincerely,

Sharon K. Manson
President, NAMI Johnson County