

Victoria Jackson

Kechi, KS

Testimony in Support of H.B. 2281

In Sept. 2020, our son had a major psychotic break-down. No responses were received from urgent messages left for his MHA medication manager. We attempted to get an appointment with a private psychiatrist and were told that there would be a 3-month wait. Even though police officers provided assistance in getting him to the ER, he was denied admittance. We were told that he was not suicidal nor homicidal, but we knew that he was definitely a serious danger to himself. Only after I refused to leave (several hours), was he finally admitted. That was one of the most difficult things I have ever had to do.

If there are local mental health resources available, that would be a real lifeline in time of crisis.

If Todd could have received timely and appropriate assistance, I do not believe that his condition would have deteriorated to the point that he required 6 months of hospitalization.

There is an acute need for more mental healthcare professionals in the State of Kansas. We are losing far too many due to higher pay in other states. The numerous vacancies at Comcare make it impossible to provide the services needed in our community.