

Barb Bowers

Topeka, KS

Testimony in Support of H.B. 2281

I have been hospitalized twice at Stormont west & twice in Stormont's senior care unit when it was there. The senior care unit was the best & I think it should really be started again. I didn't care for west care as it was too noisy & the patients were not respectful of each other!

The difference between dialing 911 and 988 is that 988 would be directed for mental health crisis, while 911 is not trained to handle mental health crisis. Their priorities are for other emergencies like fire, police & ambulance, we need a service that would respond more quickly and specifically trained to handle these emergencies.

I am a retired social worker who had to retire from the state due to bipolar & anxiety. I've been state president of the Depression Bipolar Support Alliance. Some of our members have committed suicide & this could be a wonderful advantage. It is difficult to find affordable mental health care.

WE NEED THIS BILL TO BE PASSED!