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## Fact Sheet

### “MENTAL HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY” HR 711

#### House Sponsors

Rep. [Lou Lang](#), [Tom Demmer](#), [Deb Conroy](#), [Steven A. Andersson](#) and [Sara Feigenholtz](#)

#### Background:

- Illinois ranks 41st in the nation for mental health service coverage provided to children, with only 45% of children receiving necessary care.
- On average, only one psychiatrist is available to serve 1.5 million patients in Southern IL.
- Wait times to see a psychiatrist in the Illinois community mental health system can range from four to six months.
- 85 of 102 counties in Illinois having areas designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas for Mental Health Services.
- Illinois ranks 30th in mental health workforce availability with 844 people per mental health worker compared to the national median of 752.
- Average length of time to fill an open behavioral health position in many rural counties can be as long as 18 months.

#### Issue:

- Illinoisans are unable to adequately access community based behavioral health services due to the behavioral health workforce shortages.
- The state has failed to implement an effective community behavioral health workforce strategy to address the state’s community behavioral health workforce crisis.

#### Solution:

- House Resolution 711 is a 911 to lawmakers. It seeks to illustrate the immensity and urgency of the community behavioral health workforce problem in Illinois and to highlight the need for the legislature to resolve it.
- Adopt a comprehensive legislative package to address the community mental health and substance disorder workforce and behavioral healthcare access crisis in Illinois.