



## AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

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**Daniel A. Martell, PhD**

2014-15 AAFS President  
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July 10, 2014

The Honorable Tim Murphy, PhD  
2332 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Murphy

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) is the world's foremost organization of forensic scientists, with over 7,000 members representing all 50 United States. The AAFS is a multi-disciplinary professional organization that provides leadership to advance science and its application to the legal system. The objectives of the Academy are to promote professionalism, integrity, competency, education, foster research, improve practice, and encourage collaboration in the forensic sciences. Our section on Psychiatry and Behavioral Science is one of eleven sections of the Academy.

The AAFS writes to endorse your bill, The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act (H.R. 3717). Although the mission of the Academy is not focused on mental health service, we recognize that a significant amount of criminal activity is rooted in mental health disorders and our focus is to promote justice in our society. We see your bill as a strong and needed effort to enhance our nations ability to address mental health issues in the U.S. We proudly stand behind your effort.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of this important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel A. Martell, Ph.D.", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel A. Martell, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.  
President,  
American Academy of Forensic Sciences