

THE WRITE THING

Since 1993

**An Advocacy Group of
Mental Health America of the North Shore
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February 5, 2013

Rep. Robyn Gabel
820 Davis St., Ste. 103
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Rep. Gabel:

We are writing to express our appreciation for your support of legislation pertaining to mental health, and we hope we can count on you to vote for full implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

As stated in a recent update from the Mental Health Summit, the ACA is the most important piece of legislation affecting persons with mental illnesses since the enactment of Medicaid. Each state can decide whether it will implement the Affordable Care Act. In Illinois, the passage of House Bill 106 or Senate Bill 26 will insure full implementation of the ACA.

The Affordable Care Act helps people with serious mental illnesses because: (1) it prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage based upon a pre-existing condition; (2) it provides substantial financial incentives to states to expand Medicaid coverage to many people with serious mental illnesses; and (3) creates less expensive insurance for persons who are not eligible for Medicaid.

Persons with serious mental illnesses and all Illinois taxpayers will greatly benefit from the ACA. On behalf of all persons with disabilities, and all Illinois citizens, we urge you to support the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Illinois.

Sincerely,