

My name is Chris Lengquist, and this is my wife, Marie. We are the parents of Emma Lengquist, who sadly took her own life on February 16, 2018 after battling Borderline Personality Disorder for the previous couple years.

I'm here to support this bill and to advocate on behalf of those that do not have the capacity to advocate on their own as well as their loved ones who are trying so desperately to get help, not knowing where to turn. This bill isn't perfect. It is a start. And a good one at that.

It amazes me to this day that we had such trouble getting Emma in proper care. Was it lack of beds? Was it insurance companies dictating care? Was it the laws that protect the mentally incapacitated from the very people who are attempting to get information that can help them? Or was it a combination of the lot?

I'm under no illusions that this will solve all of Kansas' mental health care needs. But it is as good a place to start as any. After all, who among us doesn't want our care coordinated with their doctor rather than their insurance company? Who among us doesn't want to have to worry about each and every option available in a time of crisis as to whether or not that care is "in network?"

I've seen the horrors of mental health ravaging a young person, my daughter. I'm here to tell you that 72 hours is simply not enough to stabilize after a suicide attempt. If an overdose or a vein cutting isn't enough to make us stand up and notice that someone needs help, well, we may all be lost.

It's time we stand up for those that cannot stand up for themselves.