



## 2016 Caucus Resolution

### Proposed Resolution on Mental Health

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

#### Because in Iowa today,

- 1 in 5 persons experience a mental illness in a given year
- 1 in 25 adults – or 127,000 Iowans - experience serious mental illness in a given year
- There are only 711 acute care psychiatric hospital beds – 615 in hospitals and 96 at the two remaining mental health institutes
- Access to adequate treatment is difficult – only half of Iowa’s adults with mental illness received treatment
- 50% of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14, 75% by age 25
- 13% of youth age 8 to 15 live with a mental illness severe enough to cause significant impairment in their day to day lives
- The rate of mental illness jumps to 21% in youth age 13-18
- 50% of youth with mental illness drop out of school, the highest rate of any disability group
- Except for metropolitan counties, the entire state is in a mental health professional shortage area
- The state is ranked 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the number of psychiatrists based on our population. Only 140 to 150 psychiatrists are available and seeing patients
- The state is ranked 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the number of psychologists based on our population
- The state is ranked 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation for mental health workforce availability
- The number of mental health prescribers is 316 (for our population of 3.1 million) which includes available psychiatrists, psychiatric advanced nurse practitioners and physician assistants delegated prescription privileges
- The number of suicides – 445 - reached an all-time high in 2013
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among persons aged 10 and 24, but the third leading cause nationally
- Suicide is now the first cause of injury deaths, followed by car crashes, poisoning, falls and murder
- Jails and prisons have become the new psychiatric hospitals

#### Therefore, be it resolved that as a party, we support:

- A long term funding formula to assure adequate access to mental health services for youth and adults.
- Immediate steps to improve the capacity of the mental health workforce. Without an adequate workforce – there is no mental health system – there can be no services or beds.
- The implementation of a children’s mental health system – systems of care for prevention and early intervention to reduce the level of disability, core services and access to crisis services.
- Stopping the criminalization of mental illness- a systemic change to move persons with mental illness into treatment, not punishment.