



Senate of Pennsylvania

TO: All Senators  
FROM: Senator Edwin B. Erickson *EB*  
DATE: March 12, 2008  
SUBJECT: Cosponsorship of Legislation

In the near future I plan on introducing the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Maintenance of Community Services Act. This Act will establish a funding mechanism that consistently supports community-based services for individuals with mental retardation or mental illness receiving services in Pennsylvania. Currently providers of these essential community-based services, which are preferred by consumers and their families, face threats to funding every year, creating severe instability in the system and putting the quality of care for hundreds of thousands of individuals at risk.

In an effort to stabilize the community-based system and insure the health and safety of individuals with mental retardation and mental illness, the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Maintenance of Community Services Act will require the Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare to allocate the appropriate funding level for existing and new services as well as require the allocation of a cost-of-living adjustment for that funding level every year.

Please join me in sponsoring this legislation to support the hundreds of thousands of consumers with mental retardation or mental illness and the thousands of persons employed by the community MH/MR system. Please contact Linda Kauffman at 787-1350 or [lkauffman@pasen.gov](mailto:lkauffman@pasen.gov).