

Senate Bill 423

Action Alert

February 16, 2008

Greetings Members and Friends,
We need to support this bill at each step of the process.

Senate Bill 423 (SB423) is now in the Rules Committee. Below is a chart showing the members of the Rules Committee and how to contact them. We strongly urge you to CALL their office, as this has the greatest impact of any method of communication. Place the call and state the following:

If you actually live in their district:

My name is _____, and I live _____, in district _____, and I would really appreciate it if Senator _____ would support Senate Bill 423. We need proper access to these medications.

Thank you.

If your affiliate is in their district:

My name is _____, and I would really appreciate it if Senator _____ would support Senate Bill 423. We need proper access to these medications.

Thank you.

Last Name	First Name	District	City	NAMI Affiliate	Capitol Phone
Adelman	David	42	Decatur	Dekalb	(404) 463-1376
Balfour	Don	9	Snellville	Gwinnett	(404) 656-0095
Butler	Gloria	55	Stone Mountain	Dekalb/Gwinnett	(404) 656-0075
Hamrick	Bill	30	Carrollton	Douglasville/Bartow	(404) 656-0036
Hill	Jack	4	Reidsville	Statesboro	(404) 656-5038
Hooks	George	14	Americus	Central Ga./Albany**	(404) 656-0065
Johnson	Eric	1	Savannah	Savannah	(404) 656-5109
Moody	Dan	56	Alpharetta	Northside	(404) 463-8055
Pearson	Chip	51	Dawsonville	Forsyth-Dawson	(404) 656-9221
Rogers	Chip	21	Woodstock	Cobb,	(404) 463-1378
Seabaugh	Mitch	28	Sharpsburgh	LaGrange	(404) 656-6446
Shafer	David	48	Duluth	Gwinnett/Northside	(404) 656-0048
Thomas	Don	54	Dalton	Rome**/Oglethorpe	(404) 656-6436
Tolleson	Ross	20	Perry	Central Ga.**/ Statesboro**	(404) 656-0081
Unterman	Renee	45	Buford	Gwinnett	(404) 463-1368
Williams	Tommie	19	Lyons	Statesboro**	(404) 656-0089

** = Affiliate not in District, but may have members or know people in Legislator's District who can call or write

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We need your help NOW

Support SB 423 to ensure appropriate access to antipsychotic medications in the Medicaid Fee-For-Service program

- When it comes to mental health medications, one size does not fit all. Effectiveness and side effects vary significantly for every person—the medication that works for one individual may not work for another.
- Better access to antipsychotic medications can help persons with mental illness get the right medication at the right time—improving recovery.
- Treatment is most effective and less expensive in the community rather than in a state hospital or correction facility. The state will pay for other costs that are far more expensive than medication such as emergency room visits, hospitalization or prisons.
- Changing psychiatric medications is very difficult. It can take up to 6-12 weeks to determine if a medication works, and each failed trail results in suffering and possible worsening of a person's condition.

FACTS

- SB 423 will affect approximately 40,000—the most venerable aged, blind and disabled population under the Fee for Service program.
- Recently, NAMI Georgia and the Department of Human Resources held a series of meetings to discuss Georgia's mental health crisis. The outcome resulted in the setting of seven goals that will help to bring change to our current system. One of these goals relates to ensuring the unrestricted access to medications and treatment so people can recover and contribute in their community.

Urge Governor Perdue and members of the Georgia Senate to bring real change to Georgia's fractured mental health care system.

SUPPORT SB 423