

## HR 2690

Including Families in Mental Health Recovery Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Jun 9, 2015

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Jun 12, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2690>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 12, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Health

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 4435	Related bill	<b>Feb 10, 2016:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.

## **Including Families in Mental Health Recovery Act of 2015**

Amends the HITECH Act to direct the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to promulgate regulations clarifying the circumstances under which, consistent with the standards governing the privacy and security of individually identifiable health information promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), health care providers and covered entities may disclose the protected health information of patients with a mental illness, including for purposes of:

- communicating with a patient's family, friends, or caregivers, including about treatments, side effects, risk factors, and the availability of community resources, with or without patient consent;
- considering the patient's capacity to agree or object to the sharing of patient information;
- involving a patient's family members, friends, or caregivers in the patient's care plan in dealing with patient failures to adhere to medication or other therapy;
- communicating with family members, caregivers, law enforcement, or others when the patient presents a serious and imminent threat of harm to self or others; and
- communicating to law enforcement and family members or caregivers about the admission or release of a patient who was admitted to a facility for an emergency psychiatric hold or involuntary treatment.

Requires HHS to: (1) carry out such provisions in coordination with its Office for Civil Rights of HHS; and (2) ensure that the regulations pertaining to such provisions are consistent with the guidance entitled "HIPAA Privacy Rule and Sharing Information Related to Mental Health," issued by HHS on February 20, 2014.

Directs HHS to develop and disseminate model programs for: (1) training health care providers regarding the circumstances under which the protected health information of patients with a mental illness may be disclosed, (2) training lawyers and others in the legal profession on such circumstances, and (3) training patients and their families regarding their rights to protect and obtain information.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 12, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jun 9, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 9, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.