



(L to R) Police Chief Margaret Ryan, American Psychiatric Assoc. President Dr. Paul Sommergrad, Dr. E. Fuller Torrey, M.D., and Doris Fuller discuss with Rep. Murphy his Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act during the Torrey Advocacy Award ceremony. Visit [YouTube.com/TimMurphyPA18](http://YouTube.com/TimMurphyPA18) to watch his complete remarks.

## Support Grows for Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act

At a standing-room only event, Congressman Tim Murphy received the 2014 Torrey Advocacy Commendation from the Treatment Advocacy Center “for his dedication to improving the lives of people with severe mental illness.”

“I promise you this, in my life I will not rest, I will not yield, I will not give up, and I will not turn my back until we fix this problem and help those with serious mental illness,” he told the crowd.

In his acceptance speech, Rep. Murphy outlined his vision for how the mental health system should function and how the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act will achieve that vision.

The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act is the result of a two-year investigation of the nation's mental health system. Local Southwestern PA feedback proved crucial in drafting the bill, as Murphy held six public forums in Southwestern Pennsylvania open to all constituents, as well as town

hall meetings, and dozens of events to discuss with parents, providers, and law enforcement about the committee's findings and ideas to improve care for the severely mentally ill.

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* editorial board recently wrote an endorsement of Dr. Murphy's legislation in a piece on the arsonist in Homestead who burned down five city buildings. Edward McDonald called Homestead police just days before the fire asking for mental health help, telling neighbors he was worried that the end of the world was near and had been hearing voices, including that of the Antichrist. Since he was determined not to be imminently homicidal or suicidal, he did not qualify for mental health treatment.

Murphy will be making announcements about progress on the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act in his weekly e-newsletter. Please stay tuned for additional details.

## House Moves Quickly to Defund Amnesty

Legislation to fully defund the President's recent Executive Orders on amnesty awaited action in the Senate as of press time after the House passed H.R. 240 in January with Congressman Tim Murphy's support.

With special emphasis on funding border security, enforcement and creating the most technologically-advanced border force in US history, the bill's unprecedented security measures will enable federal agencies tasked with enforcing existing immigration laws to function more effectively while Congress continues working on legislation to overhaul the broken immigration system.

The House adopted five immigration-related amendments to the underlying legislation, including one to block all funding for the President's 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that defers deportation for so-called “Dreamers” brought into the nation illegally, one to block all funding for the new initiative to defer deportation for the parents of children who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, and to end prosecutorial discretion authority outlined by the so-called “Morton Memos.”

Upon passage of the measure, Murphy said he believes Congress now must get to work on enacting legislation that stops White House edicts on amnesty and instead creates a new framework emphasizing enforcement, border security and fixing the legal immigration process.

“Many of our family histories reflect the journey to America in search of peace and prosperity and nowhere more so than in Southwestern Pennsylvania do we see the living history of how our great country has been enriched by the contributions from those who legally emigrated here from every corner of the globe,” said Murphy. “To truly honor the legacy of our grandparents and great-grandparents, who sacrificed so much to come here legally, I believe we can't take the President's approach to reform by simply granting amnesty out of the White House to those who broke the law.”

# Inside! THE 2015 TOWN HALL SCHEDULE Capitol Update



Official Report for Southwestern Pennsylvanians from Congressman Tim Murphy

## Fed health officials: vaccines safe, effective, & needed

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight convened a hearing on the flu season on February 3rd, but the venue also proved an opportunity to debunk claims that vaccines are not safe for children as a measles outbreak that's infected more than 100 continues to spread.

“Many are choosing not to vaccinate against the flu because they hear the vaccine doesn't work. We're seeing a similar result with measles vaccinations but for very different reasons, and now we're paying the piper,” said Chairman Tim Murphy.

Murphy asked four of the country's top infectious disease experts if vaccines cause autism. All stated definitively that they do not. In addition, all witnesses said parents should have their children vaccinated.

He also questioned panelists on why this year's flu vaccine is such a poor match to the virus.

More than six months ago, the CDC saw evidence of a flu vaccine mismatch above the 20 to 30 percent range considered to be a significant concern. Nevertheless, the CDC chose to proceed with a less-than-effective vaccine. It is es-



Oversight Subcommittee Chairman Tim Murphy reveals how the CDC had information that the flu vaccine was a poor match to this season's virus. Despite ample forewarning, officials did not develop a 'plan B'.

timated to be only 23 percent effective for the general population, but just 12% for the elderly. An estimated 50,000 people will die and over 200,000 will be hospitalized from the flu, according to CDC data.

In 2009, when there was a similar outbreak of the swine flu, federal agencies declared a public health emergency and responded by producing a single strain vaccine to protect the public. This year, however, the CDC chose not to move forward with a 'plan B.' Murphy said he would continue to investigate.

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Tim Murphy M.C. PRRSRT STD



# Upcoming Town Forums Near You!

## Airport Area Town Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 17th 7:00 PM  
Moon Twp. Municipal Building  
1000 Beaver Grade Road  
Moon Twp. PA 15108

## South Hills Town Hall

Wed., Feb. 18th 7:00 PM  
Bethel Park Community Center  
5151 Park Avenue  
Bethel Park, PA 15102

## Westmoreland Town Hall

Tuesday, Apr. 7th 6:00 PM  
Univ. of Pitt-Greensburg  
Campana Auditorium  
150 Finoli Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601

To RSVP or for more info call (412) 344-5583 or (724) 850-7312.

# No Gas Tax Hike Needed With New Energy Bill

The House of Representatives may soon vote on a bill to authorize and continue current federally-financed infrastructure projects when the current authorization expires in May. If Congress does not act, projects like the I-70 reconstruction in Washington and Westmoreland Counties, the planned widening of route 50 in South Fayette, and the rehabilitation of the Squirrel Hill Tunnels, may stop. Some policy makers are suggesting an increase in the federal 18.4 cents per gallon gasoline tax. Rep. Tim Murphy said taxes are already too high, and unnecessary when a better solution exists. Murphy is the author of the Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act, which would expedite safe expanded production of offshore energy resources and dedicate the new royalty revenues toward paying down the nation's debt and rebuilding our crumbling roads, bridges, locks, and dams, which need \$2.2 trillion worth of repairs. Go to [Murphy.House.Gov](http://Murphy.House.Gov) to learn more.



# Providing High-Quality Behavioral Healthcare to Our Soldiers

In the last two years, more service members have died by suicide than in combat despite numerous efforts by both the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD).

"We have the best military in the world. We are strong and we are filled with strong men and women, but our country has a crisis on its hands," said Rep. Tim Murphy. On average, 22 military service members and veterans die each day by their own hands. One in five suicides nationally is a veteran even though veterans make up less than ten percent of the population. But there is hope.

This session of Congress, Rep. Murphy is focused on ensuring every soldier has the resources and opportunities to overcome Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) because these ailments can be identified and treated.

"I have seen first-hand the veterans who are succeeding at managing their conditions and living more productive, more fulfilling, and happier lives. They achieved tremendous victories on the battlefield, and off it as well — through hard work, persistence, and the support of their families, friends, other service members, and mental health professionals," said Rep. Murphy, who is a psychologist in the Navy Reserve Medical Service Corps and has treated patients on the PTS/TBI unit at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

There are just too few psychologists, psychiatrists, clinical social workers and therapists in the military according to a new Government Accountability Office report. Those that are in the military are burdened with paperwork, screening duties, and oftentimes have too little time to counsel patients.

To build a military mental health workforce capable of serving those who served us, the House of Representatives in January passed the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act (H.R. 203). This bill, which Rep. Murphy was an original cosponsor of, requires an annual review of VA and DoD PTS/TBI programs. It also directs the VA to hire additional psychiatrists to fill a shortage gap and establishes programs to help soldiers transition to civilian life and access appropriate mental health services. The bill, which has passed the Senate, has not been signed into law as of press time.

This bill is only the beginning of the change needed to ensure every soldier has access to the best possible treatment, said Murphy. Many soldiers with PTS and TBI find their treatment plans and medication regimens change when they switch over from DoD care to the VA. In the coming weeks, Rep. Murphy will introduce legislation to fix this DoD-VA "handoff." To stay informed about these ongoing efforts to promote high-quality behavioral healthcare for our soldiers, sign up for his weekly email newsletter at [Murphy.House.Gov](http://Murphy.House.Gov). And, if you are a veteran or know of one needing assistance with the VA or related federal agencies, please contact Rep. Murphy's district offices.

**Do you have Medicare, Social Security, or VA casework? Rep. Murphy can help.**

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