



— Mental Health and —  
Substance Abuse Coalition

## POLICY PRIORITIES

### How to Use the MHSA Policy Priorities:

**Remember...** In the 2018 Project Wichita Survey, Mental Health was identified as the sixth most important issue in our region by more than 13,900 residents.

**Understand...** These issues impact your neighbors, our workforce and future generations.

**Impact...** Mental health and substance abuse affects all incomes, all races, all ages...ALL.

- *19% of adults experience, or have experienced, mental illness*
- *9.7% of youth in the United States struggle with severe Depression*
- *10.8% of Americans with a mental illness are uninsured*
- *40 million Americans ages 12 and older have substance abuse issues*
- *1 in 5 high school students have a substance abuse problem*

**Contact...** Legislators to let them know your support AND share this information with others.

### How to Contact Your Legislator:

Go to [https://openstates.org/find\\_your\\_legislator/](https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/)

If you know your legislators by name, you can get their contact information at [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org) under the Legislators tab at the top. The House and Senate rosters are listed alphabetically.

### What to Say:

Speak from the **heart**. Tell them why you care and why support for mental health and substance abuse is important to our community.

Speaking as a concerned citizen is important. We have professional staff to answer questions and provide technical responses. You are the community voice.

Be brief in your correspondence, be grateful for their time and be ready to respond.