
NEWS Release

U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick



REPRESENTING NORTH CAROLINA'S NINTH DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REP. MYRICK TAKES PRIVATE LIFE PUBLIC WITH CRUSADE TO DE-STIGMATIZE MENTAL HEALTH MISCONCEPTIONS

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, U.S. Representative Sue Myrick (NC-9) announced that she has initiated an Energy and Commerce hearing on Mental Health Disorders, which will take place Wednesday, June 28, 2006. At this hearing, experts will testify about research advances that have improved the treatment options for brain diseases like depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. The hearing will begin at 10:00am in room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Rep. Myrick is holding this hearing because brain disease, commonly referred to by the public as mental health disorders, affects millions of Americans, including her granddaughter.

For more than a decade now, Rep. Myrick has watched her granddaughter struggle with bipolar disorder, and, as a result, drug addiction. She has worked to get her granddaughter help, but it has been a daily battle for her and her family.

Because of the stigma attached to brain disease, Myrick feels that many people struggling with brain diseases are not getting treatment that could help them lead a healthy, normal life.

“I am a breast cancer survivor, and I liken the stigma of brain disease to that of cancer 20 years ago,” said Rep. Myrick. “People who had cancer 20 years ago wouldn’t tell anyone because they were scared they would look weak, or might even lose their job. Today, people with brain disease face the same problems in society. The public doesn’t realize that diseases affecting one’s brain can be just as destructive and life-threatening as cancer, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses – sometimes even more so. My family has faced this stigma for the past decade, and I hope that these hearings will educate the public on brain disease and change their perception. I hope it will also empower people who have these challenges to step out of the shadows and get treatment.”

After the hearings, there will be a Press Conference where Rep. Myrick and others will take questions. Media are encouraged to cover this event so that people struggling with Mental Health issues see that, with treatment, they can lead a normal life.

What:	Sue Myrick Holding Mental Health Hearings
When:	Wednesday, June 28, 2006
Time:	10:00am – 1:00pm
Location:	Room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

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