

**ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Senator Missy Irvin  
Co-Chair

Representative Lee Johnson  
Co-Chair

**JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, & LABOR COMMITTEES**

November 25, 2024

The Honorable Terry Rice, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair  
Arkansas Legislative Council  
Room 350, State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Rice and Representative Wardlaw:

Pursuant to Act 512 of 2023, the following report of the Arkansas Legislative Study on Mental and Behavioral Health by the Senate and House Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor is being submitted to the Arkansas Legislative Council.

The Joint Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor met over a period of months to discuss topics including, but not limited to, existing mental and behavioral health facilities such as the Arkansas State Hospital, the status and future of crisis stabilization units, and efforts to improve the future of mental and behavioral healthcare by educating future healthcare professionals at educational institutes throughout the state.

The Committees recommend that the Arkansas General Assembly continue to work towards bettering access and availability of mental and behavioral healthcare within the state in the coming years.

Sincerely,

*Missy Irvin*

Senator Missy Irvin  
Senate Chair

*Lee Johnson*

Representative Lee Johnson  
House Chair

cc: Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research