\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_, 2022

Title and Name of Sheriff/Chief

Street Address

City, State and Zip Code

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

As a member/leader of an Episcopal Church congregation in your jurisdiction, I write to request your support for HR 1368, the Mental Health Justice Act of 2021. See [H.R.1368 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Mental Health Justice Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1368#:~:text=Introduced%20in%20House%20%2802%2F25%2F2021%29%20Mental%20Health%20Justice%20Act,emergencies%20that%20involve%20people%20with%20behavioral%20health%20needs.). This bill would create a grant program for states and local governments to hire, employ, train and dispatch mental health professionals to respond, instead of law enforcement, to emergencies involving persons with a mental illness, or an intellectual or developmental disability.

Many police departments have already established mental health teams that work along with police officers where persons exhibit signs of mental illness or disability. See [Irvine starts using medical workers for mental-health calls - Los Angeles Times (latimes.com)](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-11-21/as-o-c-police-face-scrutiny-for-shootings-irvine-starts-using-medical-workers-for-mental-health-calls). But the current resources are not adequate to fully address the problem. In late October, Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said that so far in 2021, almost one-third of the city’s police shootings involved persons believed to be suffering mental illness. This is an increase of 21% from the previous year. Clearly, more needs to be done.

The Bishop’s Commission on Gospel Justice and Community Care, established by The Rt. Rev. John H. Taylor, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, strongly supports this legislation and I do, too. It is consistent with our Baptismal Covenant “to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being”. If you would like to support this bill, please sign your name to the bottom of this letter and return it to its sponsor, The Honorable Katie Porter, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am a public safety officer and I support the passage of the Mental Health Justice Act of 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name, Title, and Jurisdiction