

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2017

Dear Friends,

I wish I could be with you for this evening's event. Please know that I am with you in spirit as you screen 'God Knows Where I Am,' a compelling film that chronicles the daily struggles and captures the painful final months of a woman afflicted with mental illness. Thank you to event organizers as well as tonight's panel experts for lending your thoughts and insights to a topic very much in need of public discussion.

As far back as 1999, the US Surgeon General labeled 'stigma' as perhaps the single biggest barrier to mental health care. Every time we have an open, straightforward conversation about mental illness – as we are doing here today – we break down the stigma. That's what this film does through the outlook of Linda Bishop and those close to her. Though this film shares one woman's heart-wrenching story, her experiences are all-too-familiar of anyone struggling with a mental illness – of a lively, smart and creative person suddenly stricken with an illness like schizophrenia – of a family straining to understand the condition of their loved one – of a society wondering why one would retreat into solitude when help is so desperately needed. 'God Knows Where I Am' puts these questions and conversations front and center here in New Hampshire and all across America.

I was honored to sponsor a screening of this film on Capitol Hill in the Congressional Auditorium, and I am grateful that you are all here tonight. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator