

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), a coalition of national organizations representing consumers, family members, mental health and addiction providers, advocates and other stakeholders, is writing to express our strong support for S. 1378, the Connecting Our Medical Providers with Links to Expand Tailored and Effective (COMPLETE) Care Act. By incentivizing primary care to adopt and implement integrated care models, your important legislation would improve access to timely and effective behavioral health care treatment.

Families across the country are struggling to access needed mental health and substance use disorder services. Ongoing workforce shortages and a lack of care coordination all impede patient access. The COMPLETE Care Act would address these issues by helping clinicians and practices adopt innovative integrated delivery models such as the Primary Care Behavioral Health Model and Collaborative Care Model. By facilitating coordinated care between health professionals, in the primary care setting, these team-based models have the capacity to increase access, reduce wait times for treatments, improve patient outcomes, and reduce overall treatment costs.

The uptake of these innovative models by primary care practices remains low due to the up-front costs associated with implementation. By providing temporarily enhanced Medicare payment rates for behavioral health integration services, as well as technical assistance and quality measures, your legislation would help to address these issues. The COMPLETE Care Act is a logical and much needed step toward ensuring integrated behavioral health care is more widely implemented, and patients can get the mental health and substance use care they require.

We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation and improve outcomes for our patients.

Sincerely,

American Art Therapy Association
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association on Health and Disability
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association Services
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Clinical Social Work Association
Crisis Text Line
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Inseparable
International OCD Foundation
Legal Action Center
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Mental Health America
NHMH-No Health w/o Mental Health
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH)
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Council for Mental Wellbeing
National Federation of Families
National Register of Health Service Psychologists
Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health
Psychotherapy Action Network
REDC Consortium
RI International
The Kennedy Forum
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health
Trust for America's Health