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July 9, 2019

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The Honorable Elijah Cummings
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Cummings and Senator Warren:

On behalf of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the national medical specialty association representing over 38,500 psychiatric physicians, I want to thank you for your sponsorship of H.R. 2569/S. 1365, the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act, which authorizes funding for an array of state and local programs to further combat the nation's ongoing addiction epidemic.

APA applauded Congress' efforts to combat the opioid crisis through additional funding and the systemic reforms included in last year's opioid bill, the SUPPORT Act of 2018. While APA supported many provisions contained in the SUPPORT Act, further efforts are needed to combat the nationwide addiction epidemic.

Addiction is a complex and chronic health problem for the 30.5 million use adults age 12 or older who are current users of illicit drugs.¹ Despite recent progress in combating the illicit use of opioids over the past several years, addiction is and will continue to be a far-reaching national crisis without adequate resources to combat it. In 2017, while an estimated 20.7 million individuals age 12 or older required some form of substance use treatment, less than one-fifth of those individuals (4 million) received substance use treatment within the past year.²

We appreciate that your bill targets a large portion of its resources towards states, municipalities, and communities that have especially felt the impact of this crisis. Your bill also has the potential to vastly expand access to evidence-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment, regardless of whether the patient has a mental health disorder that coexists with a substance use disorder. APA also appreciates that your bill includes provisions designed to increase the workforce of mental health and addiction professionals, as well as provides additional resources

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, "Results from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health" (September 2018), available at: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2017-nsduh-annual-national-report>.

² Id. at 46.

towards the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control to increase our understanding of addiction and improve our data collection capabilities concerning addiction.

Thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 2569 and S. 1365. Please let us know how we can aid your efforts to advance this bill. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Troubh at mtroubh@psych.org / 202.559.3571.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Saul Levin" followed by "MD, MPA" in smaller letters. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Saul Levin, MD, MPA, FRCP-E
CEO and Medical Director