

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
U.S. Capitol building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Endorsement of H.R. 593 / S. 135: *The Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Act of 2021*

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McCarthy, Schumer and McConnell:

We, the undersigned national behavioral health and health care professional organizations, appreciate the action taken by Congress during the 116th Congress to address the unprecedented health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you consider next steps, including President Biden's set of proposals, we strongly urge you to include the text of H.R. 593 / S. 135, *the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Act of 2021*, as a component of the behavioral health provisions of any upcoming legislative package.

H.R. 593 (sponsored by Representatives Tim Ryan and John Katko) and S. 135 (sponsored by Senators Amy Klobuchar, Todd Young and Chris Van Hollen) is a critical bipartisan bill that authorizes \$100 million to initiate or expand programs offering mental health and substance use disorder services in response to the pandemic.

The Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Act of 2021 was drafted to initiate, expand or sustain programs that provide professional mental health and substance use disorder counseling. The bill also provides much-needed SAMHSA funding for support groups, helplines, telehealth and other services needed now and will continue to be needed in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We call your attention to H.R. 593 / S. 135 because this bill provides important funding, and a noteworthy list of eligible grantees and authorized activities that will unquestionably make a positive difference for those suffering from behavioral health concerns, including substance use disorders, that for many have been exacerbated by the pandemic and economic collapse. ***This bill is especially needed to provide support for the smaller, community groups and for the nonprofit organizations that have not had***

access to SAMHSA resources despite continuing to provide services throughout the pandemic and economic crisis.

Many individuals and families in this country are grappling with mental health conditions and addictions, and it is critical that they find the care they need, particularly now. H.R. 593 / S. 135 will expand access to vitally important programs and treatment. We urge inclusion of the text of *the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Act of 2021* in the next legislative vehicle to address the pandemic.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom

American Art Therapy Association
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Suicidology
American Counseling Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Clinical Social Work Association
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists
Consortium Representing Eating Disorders Care
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
Education Development Center
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
International OCD Foundation
The Jed Foundation
The Jewish Federations of North America
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Alliance to End Homelessness

National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of Counties
National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Eating Disorders Association
National Federation of Families
National Register of Health Service Psychologists
Postpartum Support International
Psychotherapy Action Network
Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America
School Social Work Association of America
SMART Recovery