



**Association for Behavioral  
Health and Wellness**

*Advancing benefits and services  
in mental health, substance use  
and behavior change.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ABHW Statement on the Revised *Better Care Reconciliation Act***

**Washington, DC (July 14, 2017)** – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), an association of the nation's leading behavioral health and wellness companies serving over 170 million people, today released the following statement in response to the revised Senate *Better Care Reconciliation Act* (BCRA):

“While this version of BCRA does include \$45 billion to fight the opioid crisis, and is clearly a boost from the original \$2 billion in the first bill, this is still just a drop in the bucket. When distributed across the country, it does not come close to what is needed, and it is not a tenable replacement for Medicaid reimbursement.

“We have serious concerns about the impact this legislation’s changes would have on individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. The addition of the Cruz amendment, and the segmentation of the market and undermining of existing consumer protections it will bring, further heighten these concerns.

“Phasing out the federal matching rate and not assuring a mental health and addiction benefit will roll back behavioral health coverage to approximately 1.3 million Americans. At a time when deaths from opioid overdoses and suicide are at a high, we should be fortifying benefits for these individuals, not dismantling them.

“Behavioral health is an integral part of whole health, and appropriate treatment for these illnesses leads to recovery and aids in the improvement of a person’s physical health. Approximately 1.8 million of the 21 million people covered under provisions of the Affordable Care Act in January 2017 were receiving mental health services and subsidies; approximately 1.25 million people with serious mental disorders and about 2.8 million Americans with a substance use disorder would lose some or all of their coverage under the BCRA.”

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*ABHW is an association of the nation’s leading behavioral health and wellness companies. These companies provide an array of services related to mental health, substance use disorders, employee assistance, disease management, and other health and wellness programs to over 170 million people in both the public and private sectors. ABHW and its member companies use their behavioral health expertise to improve health care outcomes for individuals and families across the health care spectrum. Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, Anthem, Beacon Health Options, Centene Corporation, Cigna, Humana Behavioral Health, New Directions Behavioral Health, Optum, and PerformCare.*