



**Association for Behavioral
Health and Wellness**

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

PRESS RELEASE

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ABHW Congratulates Azar on Confirmation as New HHS Secretary

WASHINGTON (January 24, 2018) – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), the national voice for payers that manage behavioral health insurance benefits for over 175 million people, today issued the following statement in response to the confirmation of Alex Michael Azar II as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

“We congratulate Mr. Azar on his confirmation as Secretary of Health and Human Services. We look forward to working with him and his staff on issues such as the expansion of telehealth in Medicare, solutions to the opioid crisis, access to high quality behavioral health treatment, and affordable coverage for all Americans.

“We are committed to working with both the Administration and Congress to ensure that federal policies help provide individuals who need treatment for mental health and substance use disorders with timely access to evidence-based care.”

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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.