



Advancing Health Care Policy  
for Mental Health and Addiction

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **ABHW Pleased Bipartisan Opioid Bill Passes Energy and Commerce Committee**

**Washington, DC (May 17, 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, responded to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce approval of [H.R. 5795, the Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act](#) (OPPS Act), sponsored by Congressmen Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Markwayne Mullin (R-OK).

The following statement is attributed to Pamela Greenberg, MPP, President and CEO, Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness:

“We are pleased that members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce voted in a bipartisan manner today to pass H.R. 5795, the Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act, out of committee and we thank Congressmen Mullin (R-OK) and Blumenauer (D-OR) for their tireless efforts to move this legislation forward.

“It is encouraging that Members of Congress recognize the importance of aligning the treatment of substance use disorder (SUD) records with how all other medical and behavioral health records are treated. This bill will facilitate integrated care for individuals with an opioid or other substance use disorder while maintaining, and in fact enhancing, the protections that currently exist for SUD records.

“ABHW members have long advocated for changes to the existing 42 CFR Part 2 regulations so that care can be coordinated and providers can have access to all of a patient’s medical record. This later point is particularly important because this legislation helps ensure that a provider prescribing opioids for pain will know whether or not the patient they are treating has a SUD and therefore should not receive opioids, this will help prevent overdose and death. Our members contend that Part 2 is one of the biggest – if not the biggest – barrier to fighting the opioid crisis.”

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[ABHW](#) is the leading health plan association working to improve access and quality of care for mental health and substance use disorders. ABHW's members include national and regional health plans who care for more than 175 million people. Together we work to reduce stigma and advance federal policy on mental health and addiction care. Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, Anthem, Beacon Health Options, Centene Corporation, Cigna, New Directions Behavioral Health, Optum, and PerformCare.