



**Association for Behavioral
Health and Wellness**

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

March 8, 2017

The Honorable Tim Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Murphy:

I am writing to express the Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness's (ABHW) support for your amendment to the American Health Care Act (AHCA), Sense of Congress Relating to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Laws.

ABHW is the national voice for companies that manage behavioral health and wellness services. ABHW member companies provide specialty services to treat mental health, substance use, and other behaviors that impact health. ABHW supports effective federal, state, and accrediting organization policies that ensure specialty behavioral health organizations (BHOs) can continue to increase quality, manage costs, and promote wellness for the nearly 170 million people served by our members.

For the last two decades, ABHW has supported mental health and addiction parity. We were an original member of the Coalition for Fairness in Mental Illness Coverage (Fairness Coalition), a coalition developed to win equitable coverage of mental health treatment. In the four years prior to passage of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA), ABHW served as the Chair of the Fairness Coalition. Since the passage of MHPAEA, ABHW member companies have been actively working to understand and implement the law.

As the current health care debate continues, it is imperative that we do not reverse the progress that has been made with the enactment of the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996 (MHPA) and MHPAEA. Ensuring that financial and treatment coverage in health insurance policies is equitable between behavioral and physical health care helps Americans with mental illness and substance use disorder receive the treatment they need.

Thank you for your dedication to upholding mental health and addiction parity during this health care reform process.

Sincerely,

Pamela Greenberg
President and CEO