



**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 Comments on Confirmation of New HHS Secretary Price and CMS Administrator Verma

WASHINGTON (March 17, 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, issued the following statement in response to the confirmation of Tom Price as Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Seema Verma as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).*

“We congratulate Dr. Price and Ms. Verma on their confirmations as Secretary of Health and Human Services and Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, respectively. We look forward to working with the both of them, their team, and the dedicated HHS and CMS staff to make sure that all Americans have access to high quality behavioral health treatment and affordable coverage.

“As we move forward with health care reform discussions, ABHW supports policies that stabilize and strengthen the individual and small group insurance market; and, ensure coverage and access to behavioral healthcare that is on par with physical health. It is vital for everyone to have access to comprehensive, evidence based mental health and addiction treatment so that they can recover and live full, productive lives.

“We are committed to working with leadership in both parties to ensure coverage for mental health and substance use disorders so that consumers receive timely, high-quality, care; preventive services; and other medically necessary treatments.”

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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.