



May 14, 2019

The Honorable Brad Schneider
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Brooks
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ann Kuster
320 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elise Stefanik
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider, Brooks, Kuster, and Stefanik,

The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) appreciates your support to increase access to treatment for substance use disorders (SUDs). H.R. 2439, the Opioid Workforce Act of 2019, is a positive step to enhancing access to treatment and addressing behavioral health workforce shortages.

ABHW is the national voice for payers that manage behavioral health insurance benefits. ABHW member companies provide coverage to approximately 200 million people both in the public and private sectors to treat mental health, SUDs, and other behaviors that impact health and wellness.

We appreciate your efforts to increase access to care, particularly in regard to addressing the opioid crisis. By increasing the number of residency positions, this legislation will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage that so many people already experience in their communities. We thank you for your leadership and support the legislation and your efforts to ensure a sustainable workforce to meet the behavioral health needs in communities across the country. If you would like to speak with us please contact Maeghan Gilmore, Director, Government Affairs, ABHW, (202) 449-7658.

Sincerely,

Pamela Greenberg, MPP
President and CEO
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness