ABHW

**Association for Behavioral
Health and Wellness**

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

May 22, 2014

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

Dear Representative Murphy:

The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) would like to thank you for taking the lead in the U.S. House of Representatives to bring attention to, and prioritize, mental health issues. ABHW is the national voice for companies that manage behavioral health and wellness benefits and has been an advocate for behavioral health issues since 1994. ABHW member companies provide specialty services to treat mental health, substance use, and other behaviors that impact health and wellness to approximately 125 million people in both the public and private sectors.

The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) supports several of the provisions in H.R. 3717, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, including:

- Tele-psychiatry and primary care physician training grant program;
- Federally qualified community behavioral health clinics;
- Mental health awareness training for first responders;
- Report on the number of seriously mentally ill who are imprisoned; and
- Increase in funding for the NIH Brain Research through the Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies Initiative.

ABHW recently launched a Stamp Out Stigma campaign to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, so we are pleased to see you have included a behavioral health awareness program to reduce stigma as well.

These programs will help many Americans receive the treatment they need by addressing the critical issues of integration and access to care. We look forward to working with you on this legislation and on passing legislation that will improve the nation's mental health system. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Murow Klein at (202) 449-7658 or klein@abhw.org.

Sincerely,

Pamela Greenberg
President & CEO, ABHW