

## Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness

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## ABHW Applauds Reps. Peters and Miller for Introducing National Mental Health No Stigma Week Resolution

ABHW's Stamp Out Stigma Initiative Complements Important Congressional Effort

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) today applauded the efforts of Congressmen Scott Peters (D-Calif.) and Gary Miller (R-Calif.), who last week introduced bipartisan legislation to designate the first full week of May each year as "National Mental Health No Stigma Week." As of this week, 54 Members of Congress have signed on as supporting co-sponsors of the bill.

"More than one in four of us will face a mental illness in a given year," said Pamela Greenberg, President and CEO of ABHW. "Unfortunately, far too many are also living with the persistent stigma that comes with mental illness. Misunderstanding, shame, and fear prevent millions of people from getting the help they need. ABHW members applaud Reps. Scott Peters, Gary Miller and the more than 50 other cosponsors of this resolution for their leadership in this vital effort."

In conjunction with National Mental Health Month, ABHW is actively working to reduce stigma through its innovative <u>Stamp Out Stigma</u> initiative, which seeks to transform the dialogue on mental health from a whisper to a conversation. This year, ABHW is working to reach more than 1 million Americans through social media, advertising, and public outreach to help them recognize, reeducate, and reduce the painful stigma attached to mental illness and addiction. More than 40,000 people have already participated in the nationwide campaign through StampOutStigma.com, Facebook, Twitter, and by signing the Stamp Out Stigma pledge.

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The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) is the national voice for specialty behavioral health and wellness companies. ABHW member companies provide specialty services to treat mental health, substance use and other behaviors that impact health to the nearly 125 million people served by our members. For more information, please visit www.abhw.org.