



May 14, 2019

The Honorable John Katko
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Katko and Napolitano,

The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) appreciates your support to increase access to services and treatment for mental health and substance use disorders (SUDs). H.R. 2431, the Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment 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.

Thank you for your continued leadership and focus on addressing the behavioral health needs of our nation. Increasing the number of mental health professionals in communities will help confront the behavioral health workforce shortage that hinders so many individuals and families from accessing care. We thank you again 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