



Advancing Health Care Policy
for Mental Health and Addiction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABHW Commemorates the 10th Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act

Washington, DC (March 23, 2020) – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), the national voice for payers that manage behavioral health insurance benefits for over 200 million people, today issued a statement commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The following statement can be attributed to Pamela Greenberg, MPP, President and CEO, Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness:

“As ABHW and our member companies mark the 10th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, a landmark piece of legislation which has extended coverage to over 20 million Americans, we reaffirm our commitment to improving access, providing quality care, and ensuring better health outcomes for individuals seeking mental health treatment and addiction services.

“It is of the utmost importance that behavioral health services continue during the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals that already have a behavioral health problem, and people who may be experiencing anxiety or depression as a result of the public health emergency and the need for self-isolation and social distancing, need to be able to access treatment. The ACA’s essential health benefits (EHB), one of the largest expansions of mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) coverage, ensures that those in need of services have access to them.

“We recognize, support, and commend the Affordable Care Act for providing security, peace of mind, and comprehensive coverage for millions of Americans with a behavioral health condition. Because 20 percent of the population has a mental illness, and a mental illness or substance use disorder can arise at any time, MH/SUD treatment services are a crucial element of health care coverage. It is important to ensure appropriate access to MH/SUD treatment, especially during the public health crisis of COVID-19.”

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[ABHW](#) is the leading health plan association working to improve access and quality of care for mental health and substance use disorders. ABHW’s members include national and regional health plans who care for more than 200 million people. Together we work to reduce stigma and advance federal policy on mental health and addiction

care. Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, AmeriHealth Caritas, Anthem, Centene Corporation, Cigna, Kaiser Permanente, Magellan Health, New Directions Behavioral Health, and Optum.