



Advancing Health Care Policy
for Mental Health and Addiction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABHW Commends the Reintroduction of the MAT Act

Rep. Tonko expanding access to buprenorphine to treat OUD

Washington, DC (February 25, 2021) – 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 in response to the reintroduction of the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act.

ABHW and its members thank Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY) for his dedication to ensuring individuals with substance use (SUD) and opioid use disorders (OUDs) have access to life-saving care. This legislation will remove the burdensome x-waiver requirement to prescribe buprenorphine, help reduce stigma around SUDs, and expand access to OUD treatment.

ABHW letter to Rep. Tonko can be found [here](#).

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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/Beacon, Centene Corporation, Cigna, Kaiser Permanente, Magellan Health, New Directions Behavioral Health, and Optum.