



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ABHW OBSERVES THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

Washington, DC (March 23, 2022) – 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 12th 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:

“ABHW and its member companies celebrate the 12th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act and the coverage it provides for treatment of mental health and substance use disorders (SUDs) by including mental health and SUD services as essential health benefits.”

“It is a necessity for people to have access to health insurance and quality behavioral health treatment now more than ever before. We are losing over 100,000 people to drug overdose deaths in a year, over 2.5 million youth in the U.S. have severe depression, and multiracial youth are at the greatest risk.”

“Recovery from mental health and substance use disorders is possible. We applaud the ACA for providing needed insurance coverage for behavioral health treatment.”

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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 Health Options, Centene Corporation, Evernorth, a Cigna company, Kaiser Permanente, Magellan Health, New Directions Behavioral Health, and Optum.