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ABHW APPLAUDS THE PASSAGE OF THE MAT ACT IN THE HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Washington, DC (March 18, 2022) - Today, the House Energy and Commerce Committee passed H.R. 7666, the “Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022.” Included in that bill was the bipartisan Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act (H.R. 1384).

ABHW has long advocated for the MAT Act as it would eliminate the requirement that healthcare providers obtain a waiver, known as an X-Waiver, from the Drug Enforcement Administration. According to a January 2020 report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Inspector General, 40 percent of U.S. counties do not have a single provider that can prescribe buprenorphine in an office setting. Elimination of the X-Waiver will expand access to treatment for substance use disorders.

Last week, the CDC announced that the U.S. saw a 15 percent increase in opioid overdoses resulting in nearly 108,000 overdose deaths between December 2020 and December 2021. With the approval of the MAT Act, Congress will help stave off future deaths from opioid overdoses and help people with a substance use disorder find recovery.

“We urge swift passage of the MAT Act in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate,” Pamela Greenberg, CEO and President, ABHW. “The MAT Act removes outdated barriers to treatment for opioid use disorder and saves lives.”

ABHW recently joined over 100 organizations in expressing support for the MAT Act. The full text of the letter can be read [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. ABHW member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, AmeriHealth Caritas, Anthem/Beacon, Centene Corporation/Magellan Health, Evernorth, a Cigna company, Kaiser Permanente, Molina Healthcare, New Directions Behavioral Health, and Optum.