



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**THE ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS  
APPLAUDS THE PASSAGE OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 OMNIBUS  
PACKAGE**

**Washington, DC (December 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 the following statement upon passage of the fiscal year 2023 (FY 23) omnibus package.

ABHW is pleased that Congress passed the FY 23 omnibus legislation. This legislation contains important behavioral health policies and will help advance access to mental health and substance use disorders services. The omnibus spending package includes the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act, a top priority for ABHW. This vital legislation will improve access to substance use disorder treatment, address stigma, and foster recovery. The legislation also contains other priorities ABHW has advocated for, including: a two-year extension of Medicare telehealth flexibilities, with a delay in implementation of the Medicare 6-month in-person requirement for mental health services via telehealth, adding marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors as providers in the Medicare Part B program, and advancing the collaborative care model.

“We applaud Congress for passing critical behavioral health policies in the omnibus spending package,” said Pamela Greenberg, President and CEO, ABHW. “The funding and new policies addressing behavioral health workforce issues, advancing integrated care, extending access to services through telehealth, and passage of the MAT Act show the Congress’ and the Biden Administration’s focus on helping to improve the state of behavioral health in the United States. We look forward to continuing to advance this goal in the upcoming Congress.”

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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, Elevance Health, Centene Corporation/Magellan Health,

Evernorth, a Cigna company, Kaiser Permanente, Molina Healthcare, New Directions Behavioral Health, and Optum.