



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABHW RESPONDS TO THE APPROVED EXTENSION FOR COMMENTS FROM THE TRI-DEPARTMENTS ON MHPAEA

Washington, DC – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) welcomes the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the U.S. Department of Treasury (DOT), collectively, “the Tri-Departments” approval on September 20th, of a 15-day extension of the comment periods **for the Mental Health Parity and Addition Equity Act (MHPAEA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) and Technical Release.**

This extension signifies a crucial opportunity for stakeholders commenting on the NPRM to respond thoughtfully to the complex NPRM and more thoroughly answer the questions posed in the technical release.

Following the release of the MHPAEA proposed rules, ABHW led the sign-on [letter](#) effort to request this extension, and arranged a meeting with regulators to advocate for an extension.

As we advance comments from ABHW, we are committed to working with our member companies to provide recommendations to the Tri-Departments that enhance and refine the regulations governing mental health and substance use disorder parity.

This additional time gives all interested parties an opportunity to hone in on their recommendations to the Tri-Departments. Together, we can work towards strengthening MHPAEA and ensuring that those in need have equitable access to the care they require.

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ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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 substance use disorder care. ABHW member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, Elevance Health, Centene Corporation/Magellan Health, Evernorth, a Cigna company, Kaiser Permanente, Molina Healthcare, New Directions Behavioral Health/Lucet, Optum, and PerformCare, a subsidiary of AmeriHealth Caritas. To learn more, visit www.abhw.org and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).