

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone:

The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) appreciates the opportunity to write in support of the Committee's markup for the expired reauthorization of the Substance Use Disorder Prevention That Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act).

ABHW is grateful for your leadership and bipartisan commitment to addressing urgent behavioral health care needs for all Americans. We look forward to working closely together on our shared goal to improve access to mental health (MH) and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment.

ABHW is the national voice for payers managing behavioral health insurance benefits. Our member companies provide coverage to 200 million people in the public and private sectors to treat MH, SUDs, and other behaviors that impact health and wellness.

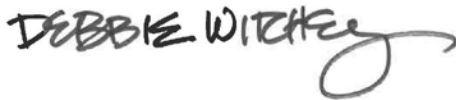
Our organization aims to increase access, drive integration, support prevention, raise awareness, reduce stigma, and advance evidence-based treatment and quality outcomes. Furthermore, our policy work strives to ensure that physical and behavioral health care is integrated and coordinated. ABHW is focused on guaranteeing better outcomes for whole-person care for all individuals and communities.

The state of behavioral health in America remains a national crisis, with millions of people across the nation experiencing an SUD and 1 in 5 Americans experiencing an MH condition each year. We are encouraged by the decline of overdose deaths from its peak in 2021 through our combined commitment to address this epidemic. However, fentanyl-related deaths remain troublingly high, and the co-occurrence of MH conditions leading to suicide is taking the lives of far too many Americans, particularly our youth, new mothers, and medically underserved communities.

ABHW urges Congress to reauthorize the *Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act*, which expired on September 30, 2023. The SUPPORT Act is critical to effectively addressing SUDs and co-occurring MH conditions. Its policies and provisions will continue to embrace prevention, treatment, and a pathway to recovery. **We ask that the Committee and Congress pass this important legislation to advance our collaborative efforts to prevent and treat SUDs.**

We appreciate your leadership in continuing the bipartisan support the Committee built in the 118th Congress for the SUPPORT Act and **urge the Committee to swiftly pass the final compromised version into law.** We are available as a resource. If you have any questions or would like to discuss ABHW's policy priorities, please contact Maeghan Gilmore, Vice President of Government Affairs, at gilmore@abhw.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DEBBIE WITCHEY". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end of the name.

Debbie Witchey, MHA
President and CEO