



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) Responds to the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee Markup of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025**

**Washington, D.C.** – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), the national voice for payers that manage behavioral health insurance benefits for 200 million people, responded to the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce markup of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025 (“SUPPORT Act”).

ABHW appreciates the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce successfully passing the SUPPORT Act out of the Committee after it expired on September 30, 2023. The SUPPORT Act is critical to effectively addressing substance use disorders (SUDs) and co-occurring mental health conditions. Its policies and provisions will continue to embrace prevention, treatment, and a pathway to recovery. We urge Congress to reauthorize this important legislation to help people get access to the treatment they need.

"While overdose deaths have decreased since 2023, the state of behavioral health in America remains a national crisis with millions of people across the nation experiencing a substance use disorder, only one in five of whom still receive treatment," said Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) President and CEO Debbie Witchey. "The fentanyl-related deaths persist at alarmingly high levels, and the co-occurrence of mental health conditions leading to suicide is taking the lives of far too many Americans, particularly our youth, new mothers, and people in medically underserved communities. Reauthorizing the SUPPORT Act will strengthen access to life-saving treatment and continue to reduce overdose deaths."

We are grateful for the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee's leadership in continuing the support the Committee built in the 118th Congress for the SUPPORT Act and call on Congress to reauthorize the SUPPORT Act.

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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 that care for 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, a CVS Health Company; CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield; Caredon Behavioral Health, an Elevance Health Company; Centene Corporation; Evernorth; Kaiser Permanente; Lucet; Magellan Health; Molina Healthcare; Optum; and PerformCare, a subsidiary of AmeriHealth Caritas. To learn more, visit [www.abhw.org](http://www.abhw.org) and follow us on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#).