

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204, The Capitol
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

The undersigned organizations are writing to share our views on the *American Health Care Act* (AHCA) as reported by the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce committees. We are very concerned that the AHCA's proposed changes to our health care system will result in reductions in health care coverage, particularly for vulnerable populations including those suffering from addiction and mental illness, and we cannot support the bill in its current form.

We collectively represent consumers, families, providers, health care and social service professionals, advocates and allied organizations who are committed to meaningful and comprehensive policies to reduce the toll of substance use disorders and mental illness through prevention, treatment and recovery support services.

More than 20 million Americans currently have health care coverage due to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including millions of Americans with addiction and mental illness. This coverage is a critical lifeline for these individuals, many of whom were unable to access effective treatment before the ACA's expansion of Medicaid eligibility to low-income adults, and its requirement that Medicaid expansion plans and plans sold in the individual and small group markets provide essential health benefits (EHB) including addiction and mental health treatment services at parity with medical and surgical services.

In the face of the opioid overdose and suicide epidemics, equitable access to a full continuum of mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, including medications to treat addiction and mental illness, must be an essential component of health care coverage. It is also critical that addiction and mental illness be covered on par with other medical conditions consistent with the *Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008* (MHPAEA). The *Affordable Care Act* (ACA) extended the applicability of MHPAEA to the small and individual group market as well as Medicaid expansion plans, which are currently required to offer addiction and mental health services at parity with medical and surgical services. As authors writing in the *New England Journal of Medicine* recently noted, "Repeal of the ACA would dismantle these protections and turn the clock back to a time when most Americans were subject to restrictive and inequitable limits on coverage for medication treatment and other supplementary treatments for opioid use disorder."

We are concerned that rolling back the Medicaid expansion, sunseting the EHB requirements for Medicaid expansion plans, and capping federal support for Medicaid beneficiaries will reduce coverage for and access to addiction and mental health treatment services, changes that will be particularly painful in the midst of the ongoing opioid overdose and suicide epidemics. Moreover, while the AHCA retains the EHB requirements for private plans, it repeals the ACA's actuarial value requirements for those plans. We are concerned that this could result in insurers offering mental health and addiction treatment benefits in name only due to higher costs and/or less robust benefits.

The Medicaid expansion in particular has led to significant increases in coverage and treatment access for persons with addiction and mental illness. In states that expanded Medicaid, the share of people with addiction or mental illness who were hospitalized but uninsured fell from about 20 percent in 2013 to 5 percent by mid-2015, and Medicaid expansion has been associated with an 18.3 percent reduction in unmet need for addiction treatment services among low-income adults. Rolling back the Medicaid expansion and fundamentally

changing Medicaid's financing structure to cap spending on health care services will certainly reduce access to evidence-based treatments and reverse much or all progress made on the opioid crisis last year. Moreover, the loss of Medicaid-covered mental and substance use disorder services for adults would result in more family disruption and out-of-home placements for children, significant trauma which has its own long-term health effects and a further burden on a child welfare system that is struggling to meet the current demand for foster home capacity.

The ACA's Medicaid expansion, EHB requirements for addiction and mental illness treatment coverage, and extension of parity protections to the individual and small group market have surely reduced the burden of the opioid misuse and overdose and suicide epidemics and saved lives. As you consider this legislation, we ask that you ensure addiction and mental health treatment benefits continue to be available to Americans enrolled in the individual, small and large group markets as well as Medicaid plans and that these benefits are compliant with the *Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act*.

Finally, throughout this process, we implore you to keep in mind how your decisions will affect the millions of Americans suffering from addiction and mental illness who may lose their health care coverage entirely or see reductions in benefits that impede access to needed treatment.

Sincerely,

Acadia Healthcare
Adcare Educational Institute
Addiction Education Society
Addiction Haven
Addiction Resource Council
Addiction Services Council
Addiction Policy Forum
Addiction Treatment Center of New England
Addictions Connections Resource
Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Advocates, Inc.
Alabama Society of Addiction Medicine
Alano Club of Portland
Alcohol & Addictions Resource Center
Alcohol/Drug Council of North Carolina
Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.
Amesbury Psychological Center, Inc.
American Correctional Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal, Employees (AFSCME)
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD)
American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association on Health and Disability
American Dance Therapy Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Public Health Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine

A New PATH

Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Arc of South Norfolk, The
Arise & Flourish
Arizona's Children Association
Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
Arizona Society of Addiction Medicine
Arkansas Society of Addiction Medicine
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Behavioral Healthcare of Massachusetts
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association for Community Human Service Agencies
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Association of Flight Attendants – CWA, AFL-CIO
Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)
Association of Recovery Schools
Association of Recovery Community Organizations
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
A Stepping Stone to Success
Atlantic Prevention Resources, Inc.
Avanti Wellness
BAMSI
Bangor Area Recovery Network, Inc.
Bay Cove Human Services
Bay State Community Services, Inc.
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Behavioral Health Network, Inc.
Better Life in Recovery
Bill Wilson Center
Boston Alcohol and Substance Abuse Programs, Inc.
Boston Healthcare for the Homeless
Boston Public Health Commission
BreakingTheCycles
Bridge of Central Massachusetts, Inc., The
Bridgewell
Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, The
Brookline Community Mental Health Center
Bullhook Community Health Center, Inc.
Burke Recovery
California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Society of Addiction Medicine
Cambridge Health Alliance
Camelot Care Centers, Inc.
Cape Cod Healthcare Centers for Behavioral Health
Capital Area Project Vox
Casa Esperanza
Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families
Catholic Charities Family Counseling and Guidance Center
Catholic Family Center
Center for Human Development
Center for Open Recovery
Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources

Chautauqua Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Council
Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
Child & Family Services, Inc.
Child and Family Services of New Hampshire
Children's Friend, Inc.
Children's Home Society of Washington
Children's Law Center
Children's Services of Roxbury
CleanSlate
Clergy for a New Drug Policy
Clinical and Support Options, Inc.
Clinical Social Work Association
Coalition of Addiction Students and Professionals Pursuing Advocacy (CASPPA)
Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine
Communities for Recovery
Community Counseling of Bristol County, Inc.
Community-Minded Enterprises
Community Oriented Correctional Health Services (COCHS)
Community Services Institute
Community Solutions
Community Substance Abuse Centers
Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
Connecticut Society of Addiction Medicine
Counselors Obediently Preventing Substance Abuse (COPS)
Cutchins Programs for Children and Families
DarJune Recovery Support Services & Café
Dash for Recovery
Davis Direction Foundation - The Zone
DC Fights Back
DC Recovery Community Alliance
Delphi Behavioral Health Group/MHD
Desert Eagle Addiction Recovery
Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.
Dimock Community Health Center
Disability Rights Pennsylvania
Doctors for Recovery
Dorchester Recovery Initiative
Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania (DASPOP)
Drug Prevention Resources
East Bay Agency for Children
Easy Does It, Inc.
Eating Disorders Coalition
Edinburg Center, The
Eliot Community Human Services
El Paso Alliance
Engaged Recovery Community Services
Faces and Voices of Recovery
Facing Addiction
Family Focused Treatment Association
Family Service Association
Family Service of Greater Boston
FAVOR Greenville
FAVOR Low Country

FAVOR Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
FAVOR Pee Dee
FAVOR Tri-County
FED UP! Coalition
Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
Fenway Health
FHR
Florida Society of Addiction Medicine
Floridians for Recovery
Foundation for Recovery
Friends of Recovery - New York
FSA – Family Service Agency
Futures of Palm Beach
G III Associates
GAAMHA
Gandara Center
Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
Georgia Society of Addiction Medicine
Gosnold on Cape Cod
Granite Pathways
Greater Macomb Project Vox
Greater Philadelphia Association for Recovery Education
Great South Bay Coalition
Greater Cincinnati Recovery Resource Collaborative (GCRRC)
Griffin Recovery Enterprises
Harm Reduction Coalition
High Point Treatment Center
Hillview Mental Health Center, Inc.
Home for Little Wanderers, The
HOPE for New Hampshire Recovery
Hope House Addiction Services
Horizon Health Services
IC&RC
Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
Indiana Society of Addiction Medicine
International Nurses Society on Addictions
Institute for Health and Recovery
Iowa Association of Community Providers
Italian Home for Children, Inc.
Jackson Area Recovery Community
Jewish Family and Children's Services (JF&CS)
Joint Coalition on Health
Jordan's Hope for Recovery
Judge Baker Children's Center
Juneau Recovery Community
Justice Resource Institute (JRI)
Kentucky Society of Addiction Medicine
KEY Program, Inc., The
Kyes 2 a 2nd Chance
Lahey Health Behavioral Services
Lakeshore Foundation
Latah Recovery Center
Legal Action Center

Lifeline Connections
Lifeline Connections
Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc.
Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
Lost Dreams Awaken Center, Inc.
Lotus Peer Recovery/SoberKerrville
Lowell Community Health Center, Inc.
Lowell House, Inc.
LUK, Inc.
Madison County Council on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse
Magnolia Addiction Support
Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
Mariah's Mission Fund of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation
Mark Garwood SHARE Foundation
Martha's Vineyard Community Services
Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine
Maryland House Detox
Maryland Recovery Organization Connecting Communities (M-ROCC)
Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine
McShin Foundation
Mental Health Association
Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
MHA of Greater Lowell
Michigan's Children
Michigan Recovery Voices
Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine
Middlesex Human Service Agency, Inc.
Mid-Michigan Recovery Services, Inc.
Mi-HOPE - Michigan Heroin & Opiate Prevention and Education
Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP)
Minnesota Recovery Connection
Minnesota Society of Addiction Medicine
Missouri Recovery Network
MOBER
Mountain View Prevention Services, Inc.
NAADAC – the Association for Addiction Professionals
National Alliance for Medication-Assisted Recovery (NAMA)
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of Drug Court Professionals
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of E. San Gabriel & Pomona Valleys
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence--Greater Phoenix
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – Maryland
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – San Diego
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of the San Fernando Valley
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse-St. Louis Area
National Disability Rights Network
National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Safety Council
Navigate Recovery Gwinnett
Nevada Society of Addiction Medicine
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
New Jersey Society of Addiction Medicine
New Life Counseling & Wellness Center, Inc.
New Mexico Society of Addiction Medicine
New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
New York Society of Addiction Medicine
New York State Council for Behavioral Health
NFI Massachusetts, Inc.
NMSAS Recovery Center
No Health without Mental Health
North Charles, Inc.
North Cottage Program, Inc.
Northeast Center for Youth and Families, The
Northern New England Society of Addiction Medicine
Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA)
Northwest Indian Treatment Center
North Suffolk Mental Health Association, Inc.
Northern Rivers Family Services
North Carolina Society of Addiction Medicine (NCSAM)
O’Brien House
Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine (OHSAM)
Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery & Treatment Association (OCARTA)
Old Colony YMCA
Open Doorway of Cape Cod
Oregon Recovery High School
Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine
Overcoming Addiction Radio
Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
Partners in Prevention/National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Hudson County, Inc.
P.E.E.R Wellness Center, Inc.
PEER360 Recovery Alliance
Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together - (PRO-ACT)
Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
Pennsylvania Society of Addiction Medicine
People Advocating Recovery - PAR
Phoenix Houses of New England
Phoenix Multisport Boston
Pine Street Inn
Pivot, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
PLR Athens

Pretrial Justice Institute
Prevention Network OCAA
Putnam Family & Community Services, Inc.
RASE Project
REAL- Michigan (Recovery, Education, Advocacy & Leadership)
Recover Project/Western MA Training
Recovery Allies Of West Michigan
RecoveryATX
Recovery Café Seattle
Recovery Community Foundation of Forsyth
Recovery Communities of North Carolina
Recovery Community Of Durham
Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
Recovery Data Solutions
Recovery - Friendly Taos County
Recovery Idaho, Inc.
Recovery is Happening
RecoveryNC (Governors Institute on Substance Abuse)
Recovery Point at HER Place
Recovery Point of Bluefield
Recovery Point of Charleston
Recovery Point of Huntington
Recovery Point of Parkersburg
Recovery Point of West Virginia
Recover Wyoming
reGROUP
Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICAREs)
Riverside Community Care
Robby's Voice
ROCovery Fitness
Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence, Inc.
Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center
Sandy Hook Promise
Serenity Sistas
ServiceNet
SMART Recovery
Solano Recovery Project
Solutions Recovery, Inc.
Sonoran Prevention Works
South Arkansas Regional Health Center, Inc
Sound Community Services, Inc.
South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc. (SMOC)
South Bay Community Services
South Carolina Society of Addiction Medicine
South Central Human Relations Center
South End Community Health Center
South Shore Mental Health
Spectrum Health Systems, Inc.
SpiritWorks Foundation
Springfield Recovery Community Center
Springs Recovery Connection
SSTAR
STEP Industries

Steppingstone, Incorporated
Student Assistance Services Corp
Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of Rhode Island
Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc.
Tennessee Society of Addiction Medicine
Texas Society of Addiction Medicine
The Addict's Parents United (TAP United)
The Alliance
The Bridge Foundation
The Bridge Way School
The Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice
The Chris Atwood Foundation
The Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
The Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse for Greater New Orleans
The DOOR - DeKalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
The Kennedy Forum
The Ohana Center
The Recovery Channel
The Rest of Your Life
The Trevor Project
The Village Family Services
The Village Project, Inc.
Tia Hart Recovery Community Program
T.O.R.C.H Inc.
Toward Independent Living and Learning, TILL, Inc.
Treatment Communities of America
Trilogy Recovery Community
Two Guys and a Girl
UMass Memorial Community Healthlink, Inc.
United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA)
Veterans Inc.
Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services
Vermont Recovery Network
Victory Programs, Inc.
Vinfen
Virginia Association of Recovery Residences
Voice for Adoption
Voices of Hope for Cecil County
Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
Volunteers of America of Massachusetts, Inc.
WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
Walker, Inc.
Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
Washington Federation of State Employees
Washington Recovery Alliance
Washington Society of Addiction Medicine
Watershed Treatment Programs
Wayside Youth & Family Support Network
WEConnect
Wellspring Recovery Services
West Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine

WholeLife Recovery Community/ Arizona Recovery Coalition
Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)
Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine
Wisconsin Voices for Recovery
Wyoming County CARES
Yoga of Recovery
Young Invincibles
Young People in Recovery
Young People in Recovery – Los Angeles
Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc.
Youth Villages