

April 27, 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 most recent version of the *American Health Care Act* (AHCA). 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 substance use disorders 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 substance use disorders 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 substance use disorder 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 substance use disorders and mental illness, must be an essential component of health care coverage. It is also critical that substance use disorders 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 substance use disorder 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 remain concerned that provisions in the bill to roll back the Medicaid expansion, allow states to receive waivers from EHB requirements for private plans, sunset the EHB requirements for Medicaid expansion plans, and cap federal support for Medicaid beneficiaries will reduce coverage for and access to substance use disorder and mental health treatment services.

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 substance use disorders 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 health 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.

Medicaid funding for mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for low-income populations must be predictable, sustainable, and integrated with financing mechanisms for general medical care to ensure consistent access to treatment and support the long-term development and retention of an addiction and mental health clinician workforce.

The ACA's Medicaid expansion, EHB requirements for mental health and substance use disorder 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 substance use disorder 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 substance use disorders and mental illness who may lose their health care coverage entirely or see reductions in benefits that impede access to needed treatment.

Sincerely,

1. Acadia Healthcare
2. Adcare Educational Institute
3. Addiction Education Society
4. Addiction Haven
5. Addiction Resource Council
6. Addiction Services Council
7. Addiction Policy Forum
8. Addiction Treatment Center of New England
9. Addictions Connections Resource
10. Advocates for Recovery Colorado
11. Advocates, Inc.
12. Alabama Society of Addiction Medicine
13. Alano Club of Portland
14. Alcohol & Addictions Resource Center
15. Alcohol/Drug Council of North Carolina
16. Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.
17. Amesbury Psychological Center, Inc.
18. American Correctional Association
19. American Federation of State, County and Municipal, Employees (AFSCME)
20. American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
21. American Academy of Pediatrics
22. American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
23. American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD)
24. American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
25. American Association on Health and Disability
26. American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
27. American Dance Therapy Association
28. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
29. American Group Psychotherapy Association
30. American Medical Student Association
31. American Mental Health Counselors Association
32. American Nurses Association

33. American Public Health Association
34. American Psychiatric Association
35. American Psychological Association
36. American Society of Addiction Medicine
37. A New PATH
38. Anxiety and Depression Association of America
39. Arc of South Norfolk, The
40. Arise & Flourish
41. Arizona's Children Association
42. Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
43. Arizona Society of Addiction Medicine
44. Arkansas Society of Addiction Medicine
45. Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
46. Association for Behavioral Healthcare of Massachusetts
47. Association for Community Affiliated Plans
48. Association for Community Human Service Agencies
49. Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
50. Association of Flight Attendants – CWA, AFL-CIO
51. Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)
52. Association of Recovery Schools
53. Association of Recovery Community Organizations
54. Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
55. A Stepping Stone to Success
56. Atlantic Prevention Resources, Inc.
57. Avanti Wellness
58. BAMSI
59. Bangor Area Recovery Network, Inc.
60. Bay Cove Human Services
61. Bay State Community Services, Inc.
62. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
63. Behavioral Health Network, Inc.
64. Better Life in Recovery
65. Bill Wilson Center
66. Boston Alcohol and Substance Abuse Programs, Inc.
67. Boston Healthcare for the Homeless
68. Boston Public Health Commission
69. BreakingTheCycles
70. Bridge of Central Massachusetts, Inc., The
71. Bridgewell
72. Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, The
73. Brookline Community Mental Health Center
74. Bullhook Community Health Center, Inc.
75. Burke Recovery
76. California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
77. California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
78. California Society of Addiction Medicine
79. Cambridge Health Alliance
80. Camelot Care Centers, Inc.
81. Cape Cod Healthcare Centers for Behavioral Health
82. Capital Area Project Vox
83. Casa Esperanza
84. Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families
85. Catholic Charities Family Counseling and Guidance Center

86. Catholic Family Center
87. Center for Human Development
88. Center for Open Recovery
89. Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
90. Central City Concern
91. Chautauqua Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Council
92. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
93. Child & Family Services, Inc.
94. Child and Family Services of New Hampshire
95. Children's Friend, Inc.
96. Children's Home Society of Washington
97. Children's Law Center
98. Children's Services of Roxbury
99. CleanSlate
100. Clergy for a New Drug Policy
101. Clinical and Support Options, Inc.
102. Clinical Social Work Association
103. Coalition of Addiction Students and Professionals Pursuing Advocacy (CASPPA)
104. Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine
105. Communities for Recovery
106. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
107. Community Counseling of Bristol County, Inc.
108. Community-Minded Enterprises
109. Community Oriented Correctional Health Services (COCHS)
110. Community Services Institute
111. Community Solutions
112. Community Substance Abuse Centers
113. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
114. Connecticut Society of Addiction Medicine
115. Counselors Obediently Preventing Substance Abuse (COPS)
116. Cutchins Programs for Children and Families
117. DarJune Recovery Support Services & Café
118. Dash for Recovery
119. Davis Direction Foundation - The Zone
120. DC Fights Back
121. DC Recovery Community Alliance
122. Delphi Behavioral Health Group/MHD
123. Desert Eagle Addiction Recovery
124. Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.
125. Dimock Community Health Center
126. Disability Rights Pennsylvania
127. Doctors for Recovery
128. Dorchester Recovery Initiative
129. Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania (DASPOP)
130. Drug Policy Alliance
131. Drug Prevention Resources
132. East Bay Agency for Children
133. Easy Does It, Inc.
134. Eating Disorders Coalition
135. Edinburg Center, The
136. Eliot Community Human Services
137. El Paso Alliance
138. Engaged Recovery Community Services

139. Faces and Voices of Recovery
140. Facing Addiction
141. Family Focused Treatment Association
142. Family Service Association
143. Family Service of Greater Boston
144. FAVOR Greenville
145. FAVOR Low Country
146. FAVOR Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
147. FAVOR Pee Dee
148. FAVOR Tri-County
149. FED UP! Coalition
150. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
151. Fenway Health
152. FHR
153. Florida Society of Addiction Medicine
154. Floridians for Recovery
155. Foundation for Recovery
156. Friends of Recovery - New York
157. FSA – Family Service Agency
158. Futures of Palm Beach
159. G III Associates
160. GAAMHA
161. Gandara Center
162. Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
163. Georgia Society of Addiction Medicine
164. Gosnold on Cape Cod
165. Granite Pathways
166. Greater Macomb Project Vox
167. Greater Philadelphia Association for Recovery Education
168. Great South Bay Coalition
169. Greater Cincinnati Recovery Resource Collaborative (GCRRRC)
170. Griffin Recovery Enterprises
171. Harm Reduction Coalition
172. High Point Treatment Center
173. Hillview Mental Health Center, Inc.
174. HIV Medicine Association
175. Home for Little Wanderers, The
176. HOPE for New Hampshire Recovery
177. Hope House Addiction Services
178. Horizon Health Services
179. IC&RC
180. Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
181. Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF)
182. Indiana Society of Addiction Medicine
183. International Nurses Society on Addictions
184. Institute for Health and Recovery
185. Iowa Association of Community Providers
186. Iowa Behavioral Health Association
187. Italian Home for Children, Inc.
188. Jackson Area Recovery Community
189. Jewish Family and Children's Services (JF&CS)
190. Joint Coalition on Health
191. Jordan's Hope for Recovery

192. Judge Baker Children's Center
193. Juneau Recovery Community
194. Justice Resource Institute (JRI)
195. Kentucky Society of Addiction Medicine
196. KEY Program, Inc., The
197. Kyes 2 a 2nd Chance
198. Lahey Health Behavioral Services
199. Lakeshore Foundation
200. Latah Recovery Center
201. Legal Action Center
202. Lifehouse Recovery Connection
203. Lifeline Connections
204. Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc.
205. Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
206. Lost Dreams Awaken Center, Inc.
207. Lotus Peer Recovery/SoberKerrville
208. Lowell Community Health Center, Inc.
209. Lowell House, Inc.
210. LUK, Inc.
211. Madison County Council on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse
212. Magnolia Addiction Support
213. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
214. Mariah's Mission Fund of the Mid-Shor Community Foundation
215. Mark Garwood SHARE Foundation
216. Martha's Vineyard Community Services
217. Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine
218. Maryland House Detox
219. Maryland Recovery Organization Connecting Communities (M-ROCC)
220. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
221. Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine
222. McShin Foundation
223. Mental Health Association
224. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
225. Messengers of Recovery Awareness
226. MHA of Greater Lowell
227. Michigan's Children
228. Michigan Recovery Voices
229. Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine
230. Middlesex Human Service Agency, Inc
231. Mid-Michigan Recovery Services, Inc.
232. Midwest Society of Addiction Medicine
233. Mi-HOPE - Michigan Heroin & Opiate Prevention and Education
234. Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP)
235. Minnesota Recovery Connection
236. Minnesota Society of Addiction Medicine
237. Missouri Recovery Network
238. MOBER
239. Mountain View Prevention Services, Inc.
240. NAADAC – the Association for Addiction Professionals
241. National Alliance for Medication-Assisted Recovery (NAMA)
242. National Alliance on Mental Illness
243. National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
244. National Alliance to End Homelessness

245. National Association for Rural Mental Health
246. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
247. National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
248. National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
249. National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)
250. National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
251. National Association for Rural Mental Health
252. National Association of Drug Court Professionals
253. National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
254. National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
255. National Council for Behavioral Health
256. National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
257. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
258. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of E. San Gabriel & Pomona Valleys
259. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence--Greater Phoenix
260. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – Maryland
261. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – San Diego
262. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of the San Fernando Valley
263. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse-St. Louis Area
264. National Disability Rights Network
265. National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
266. National Health Care for the Homeless Council
267. National League for Nursing
268. National Safety Council
269. Navigate Recovery Gwinnett
270. Nevada Society of Addiction Medicine
271. New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
272. New Jersey Society of Addiction Medicine
273. New Life Counseling & Wellness Center, Inc.
274. New Mexico Society of Addiction Medicine
275. New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
276. New York Society of Addiction Medicine
277. New York State Council for Behavioral Health
278. NFI Massachusetts, Inc.
279. NMSAS Recovery Center
280. No Health without Mental Health
281. North Charles, Inc.
282. North Cottage Program, Inc.
283. Northeast Center for Youth and Families, The
284. Northern New England Society of Addiction Medicine
285. Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA)
286. Northwest Indian Treatment Center
287. North Suffolk Mental Health Association, Inc.
288. Northern Rivers Family Services
289. North Carolina Society of Addiction Medicine (NCSAM)
290. O'Brien House
291. Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine (OHSAM)
292. Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery & Treatment Association (OCARTA)
293. Old Colony YMCA
294. Open Doorway of Cape Cod
295. Oregon Recovery High School
296. Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine
297. Overcoming Addiction Radio

298. Parity Implementation Coalition
299. Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
300. Partners in Prevention/National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Hudson County, Inc.
301. P.E.E.R Wellness Center, Inc.
302. PEER360 Recovery Alliance
303. Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together - (PRO-ACT)
304. Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
305. Pennsylvania Society of Addiction Medicine
306. People Advocating Recovery - PAR
307. Phoenix Houses of New England
308. Phoenix Multisport Boston
309. Pine Street Inn
310. Pivot, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
311. PLR Athens
312. Pretrial Justice Institute
313. Prevention Network OCAA
314. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
315. Putnam Family & Community Services, Inc.
316. RASE Project
317. REAL- Michigan (Recovery, Education, Advocacy & Leadership)
318. Recover Project/Western MA Training
319. Recovery Allies Of West Michigan
320. RecoveryATX
321. Recovery Café Seattle
322. Recovery Community Foundation of Forsyth
323. Recovery Communities of North Carolina
324. Recovery Community Of Durham
325. Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
326. Recovery Data Solutions
327. Recovery - Friendly Taos County
328. Recovery Idaho, Inc.
329. Recovery is Happening
330. RecoveryNC (Governors Institute on Substance Abuse)
331. Recovery Point at HER Place
332. Recovery Point of Bluefield
333. Recovery Point of Charleston
334. Recovery Point of Huntington
335. Recovery Point of Parkersburg
336. Recovery Point of West Virginia
337. Recover Wyoming
338. reGROUP
339. Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICAREs)
340. Riverside Community Care
341. Robby's Voice
342. ROCovery Fitness
343. Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence, Inc.
344. Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center
345. Sandy Hook Promise
346. Serenity Sistas
347. ServiceNet
348. Shatterproof
349. SMART Recovery

350. Solano Recovery Project
351. Solutions Recovery, Inc.
352. Sonoran Prevention Works
353. South Arkansas Regional Health Center, Inc
354. Sound Community Services, Inc.
355. South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc. (SMOC)
356. South Bay Community Services
357. South Carolina Society of Addiction Medicine
358. South Central Human Relations Center
359. South End Community Health Center
360. South Shore Mental Health
361. Southwest Washington Recovery Coalition
362. Spectrum Health Systems, Inc.
363. SpiritWorks Foundation
364. Springfield Recovery Community Center
365. Springs Recovery Connection
366. SSTAR
367. STEP Industries
368. Steppingstone, Incorporated
369. Student Assistance Services Corp
370. Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of Rhode Island
371. Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc.
372. Tennessee Society of Addiction Medicine
373. Texas Society of Addiction Medicine
374. The Addict's Parents United (TAP United)
375. The Alliance
376. The Bridge Foundation
377. The Bridge Way School
378. The Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice
379. The Chris Atwood Foundation
380. The Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
381. The Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse for Greater New Orleans
382. The DOOR - DeKalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
383. The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
384. The Kennedy Forum
385. The Ohana Center
386. The Recovery Channel
387. The Rest of Your Life
388. The Trevor Project
389. The Village Family Services
390. The Village Project, Inc.
391. Tia Hart Recovery Community Program
392. T.O.R.C.H Inc.
393. Toward Independent Living and Learning, TILL, Inc.
394. Treatment Communities of America
395. Trilogy Recovery Community
396. Two Guys and a Girl
397. UMass Memorial Community Healthlink, Inc.
398. United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
399. Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA)
400. Valley Hope
401. Veterans Inc.
402. Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services

403. Vermont Recovery Network
404. Victory Programs, Inc.
405. Vinfen
406. Virginia Association of Recovery Residences
407. Voice for Adoption
408. Voices of Hope for Cecil County
409. Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
410. Volunteers of America of Massachusetts, Inc.
411. WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
412. Walker, Inc.
413. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
414. Washington Federation of State Employees
415. Washington Recovery Alliance
416. Washington Society of Addiction Medicine
417. Watershed Treatment Programs
418. Wayside Youth & Family Support Network
419. WEConnect
420. Wellspring Recovery Services
421. West Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine
422. WholeLife Recovery Community/ Arizona Recovery Coalition
423. Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)
424. Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine
425. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery
426. Wyoming County CARES
427. Yoga of Recovery
428. Young Invincibles
429. Young People in Recovery
430. Young People in Recovery – Los Angeles
431. Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc.
432. Youth Villages