

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Stabenow and Blunt,

On behalf of the undersigned leading mental health, addiction, and well-being advocacy groups, we write to express our strong support for the Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act (S. 2069). This legislation – introduced with cosponsors Senators Wyden (D-OR), Daines (R-MT), Cortez Masto (D-NV), Ernst (R-IA), Smith (D-MN) and Tester (D-MT) - would allow for every state and territory the ability to join the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) demonstration and would authorize investments in the model for current and prospective CCBHCs.

The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) is a coalition of organizations representing consumers, family members, mental health and addiction providers, advocates, payers, and other stakeholders committed to strengthening Americans' access to mental health and addiction care. As trusted leaders in the field, our 70+ member organizations are dedicated to elevating the national conversation around mental health and addiction. Together, we work to advance federal policies that support prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services and supports.

CCBHCs were created in 2014 and under your dedicated legislative championing, the model has grown to 340 CCBHCs in 40 states plus Washington, D.C., and Guam. These clinics provide a comprehensive array of services needed to create access, stabilize people in crisis, and provide the necessary treatment for those with the most serious, complex mental illnesses and substance use disorders. CCBHCs integrate additional services to ensure an approach to health care that emphasizes recovery, wellness, trauma-informed care, and physical-behavioral health integration.

A recent survey of CCBHCs conducted by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing found the following:

- **50% provide same-day access to care** for clients and nearly all respondents (93%) provide that care within 10 days of initial contact; compared to the national average wait time of 48 days;
- **79% coordinate with hospitals and emergency departments** to prevent avoidable admissions when individuals are in crisis; and
- **89% offer one or more forms of medication-assisted treatment (MAT)**, the most effective treatment for opioid use disorder, compared to only 56% of substance use clinics nationwide.
- **95% collaborate with law enforcement and criminal justice agencies** to reduce incarceration and improve crisis response.

The Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act builds on the success of the CCBHC model and allows every state the opportunity to participate. The MHLG thanks you for

your leadership in introducing this legislation and once again championing the model in Congress. We stand ready to work with you to ensure passage of this legislation in the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom

*American Art Therapy Association
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Suicidology
American Counseling Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Clinical Social Work Association
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Eating Disorders Coalition
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
International OCD Foundation
The Jewish Federations of North America
The Kennedy Forum
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Mental Health America
National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Rural Mental Health
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Board for Certified Counselors and Affiliates
National Council for Mental Wellbeing
National Federation of Families
National League for Nursing
REDC Consortium*