The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 12, 2024

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and House Minority Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), a coalition of national organizations representing consumers, families, mental health and addiction providers, advocates and other stakeholders committed to strengthening access to high-quality mental and behavioral health care, we write to urge leadership to include the reauthorization of the Substance Use Disorder Prevention That Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act) within the forthcoming FY24 Funding Package ahead of the March 22nd deadline. With 136 Americans dying each day due to substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health conditions, American families and communities cannot wait any longer.

Since the 2018 passage of SUPPORT Act, 13% of Americans have reported increasing or starting substance use as a way of coping with stress related to the pandemic, and in 2023, overdose rates topped 112,000 for the first time in history, proving the importance of meeting the ever-changing needs of the American population. Drug overdoses are also killing youth in unprecedented numbers: monthly total deaths by overdose have risen from 31 in July 2019 to 87 in May 2021, the period with the most recent data. Deaths among adolescents involving fentanyl specifically also increased by 182% over the same two-year period.

We applaud the hard work of both Chambers this Congress and support the public health provisions for the SUPPORT Act reauthorization reported out by the HELP Committee and passed by the House of Representatives in December. We also applaud the Committees for working on additional provisions in SUPPORT to maximize existing resources and ensure policies are responding to our current crisis. As you work to negotiate the second part of the FY24 Funding Package, we strongly urge the inclusion and passage of the SUPPORT reauthorization. Congress has the power to avert preventable American deaths due to substance use disorder and mental health conditions, but to do so Congress must act now.
We stand ready to serve as a resource if there are any questions. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

ACT Now for Mental Health
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists
American Association on Health and Disability
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association Services
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association for Behavioral & Cognitive Therapies
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Children’s Hospital Association
Clinical Social Worke Association
Crisis Residential Association
Crisis Text Line
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Employee Assistance Professionals Association  Girls Inc.
IC & RC
International OCD Foundation
ISPN
Jewish Federations of North America
Legal Action Center
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Meadows Mental Health
Mental Health America
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare
National Association for Children’s Behavioral Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Board for Certified Counselors
National Council for Mental Wellbeing
National League for Nursing
Network of Jewish Human Services Agencies
No Health without Mental Health
Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health
Psychotherapy Action Network
REDC Consortium
RI International
Sandy Hook Promise
SMART Recovery
The Kennedy Forum
Trust for America’s Health
Vibrant Emotional Health
Wounded Warrior Project, Inc.