

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on our constituents' mental well-being and understandably, has been stressful for many Americans. We have witnessed firsthand for over three years how a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in both adults and children.

The effects of COVID-19 have been well documented, and the need for mental health services only continues to grow. According to an October 2022 Kaiser Family Foundation/CNN Mental Health in America Survey, an overwhelming number of Americans (90 percent) think there is a mental health crisis in this country. The survey further found that 51 percent of adults stated they or a family member have experienced a mental health crisis, 47 percent of parents stated the pandemic has had a negative impact on their children's mental health, and half of young adults, ages 18-29, stated they have felt anxious either "always" or "often" in the past year.

We strongly encourage you, as you work in preparing the FY24 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, to fund the following programs that reduce stigma and increase access and availability of mental health services:

1. Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) [SAMHSA]

Current Funding Level (FY23): \$1,007,571,000; Request (FY24): \$1,652,571,000

Purpose of program: The MHBG awards funding to states to supplement existing and/or new mental health services. Services supported include outpatient treatment for serious mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorders; supported employment and supported housing; rehabilitation services; crisis stabilization and case management; peer specialist and consumer-directed services; wraparound services for children and families; jail diversion programs; and services for at-risk populations (e.g. individuals who are homeless, those in rural and frontier areas, military families, and veterans).

2. Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) [SAMHSA]

Current Funding Level (FY23): \$385,000,000; Request (FY24): \$553,000,000

Purpose of program: The Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act created an eight state Medicaid demonstration designed to provide intensive community-based mental health and addiction treatment services to low-income persons with severe mental illnesses and Opioid Use Disorder through CCBHCs. Congress in 2020, opened these grants up to all 50 states, and funding will provide organizations across the country an opportunity to dramatically expand access to comprehensive and evidence-based mental health and addiction care by attesting to and offering the required array of services.

3. National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) [NIH]

Current Funding Level (FY23): \$2,342,000,000; Request (FY24): \$2,542,000,000

Purpose of program: Continued investments in NIMH research will aid in developing rapid, effective treatments for behavioral health disorders and facilitate early identification and intervention.

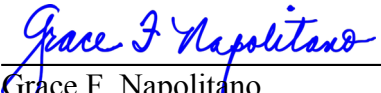
4. Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) [HRSA]

Current Funding Level (FY23): \$40,000,000; Request (FY24): \$50,000,000

Purpose of program: The STAR LRP was authorized by Congress in 2017 to respond to the growing opioid epidemic. The program expands the substance abuse treatment workforce by providing loan repayment for eligible mental and behavioral health professionals working full-time in high-need communities or federally designated mental health professional shortage areas. According to the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 94% of people aged 12 or older with a substance use disorder did not receive any treatment. Funding for this loan repayment program would help reduce this significant treatment gap by expanding the supply of qualified mental and behavioral health providers.

We would truly appreciate your continued commitment to mental health by funding these key programs in the FY24 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Sincerely,



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress




Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



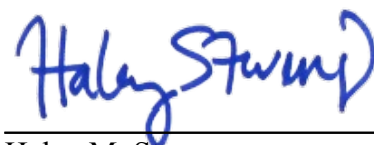
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
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Danny K. Davis
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Angie Craig
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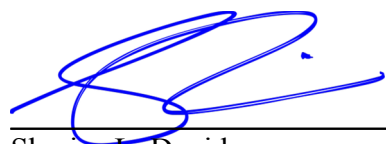
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



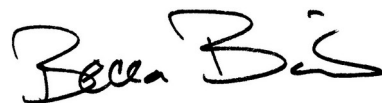
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



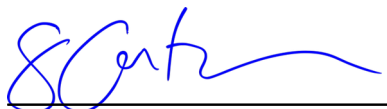
Katie Porter
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Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



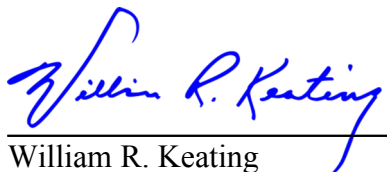
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



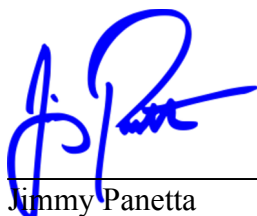
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
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Jimmy Panetta
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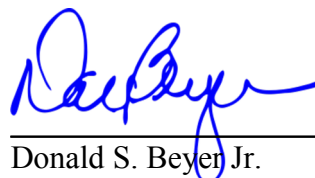
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



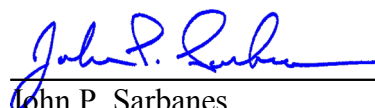
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



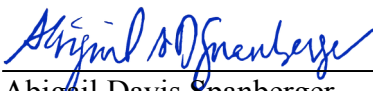
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
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