

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

The coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency is taking a toll on our constituents' mental well-being and understandably may be stressful for many Americans. We are witnessing how fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in both adults and children.

Congress' Joint Economic Committee released a report in October of 2020 on the coronavirus and how it is worsening America's mental health crisis. A 2020 U.S. Census Bureau survey found that 37% of American adults reported symptoms of anxiety and/or depression disorder, triple the percentage reported in 2019, and a June 2020 CDC survey found that more than 10% of adults have considered suicide in the past 30 days, more than double the share in 2019.

Seeing the toll caused by this unprecedented mental health crisis, the U.S. House of Representatives passed several mental health related bills on suspension in the 116th Congress (see list below). As you prepare future hearings, mark-ups and floor schedules and as these bills are re-introduced in the 117th Congress, we strongly urge you to bring forward these bills again without delay.

1. HR 1109, the Mental Health Services for Students Act (Grace F. Napolitano, D-CA-32)
2. HR 1646, the HERO Act (Ami Bera, D-CA-07)
3. HR 2466, the State Opioid Response Grant Authorization Act (David J. Trone, D-MD-06)
4. HR 2519, the Improving Mental Health Access from the Emergency Department Act (Raul Ruiz, D-CA-36)
5. HR 3539, the Behavioral Interventions Guidelines Act (Drew A. Ferguson, R-GA-03)

6. HR 4564, the Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act (John Katko, R-NY-24)
7. HR 4585, the Campaign to Prevent Suicide Act (Donald S. Beyer, Jr., D-VA-08)
8. HR 4861, the Effective Suicide Screening and Assessment in the Emergency Department Act (Gus M. Bilirakis, R-FL-12)
9. HR 5469, Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act (Bonnie Watson Coleman, D-NJ-12)
10. HR 5572, the Family Support Services for Addiction Act (David J. Trone, D-MD-06)
11. HR 5619, the Suicide Prevention Act (Chris Stewart, R-UT-02)
12. HR 5855, the Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act (C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-MD-02)
13. HR 7293, the STAND UP Act (Scott Peters, D-CA-52)

We truly appreciate your continued commitment to address the mental health needs of all Americans during this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis
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Drew Ferguson
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David Trone
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C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
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Chris Stewart
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Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Members of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress