

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), a coalition of national organizations representing consumers, family members, mental health and addiction providers, advocates and other stakeholders, is writing to express our strong support for S. 1378, the Connecting Our Medical Providers with Links to Expand Tailored and Effective (COMPLETE) Care Act. By incentivizing primary care to adopt and implement integrated care models, your important legislation would improve access to timely and effective behavioral health care treatment.

Families across the country are struggling to access needed mental health and substance use disorder services. Ongoing workforce shortages and a lack of care coordination all impede patient access. The COMPLETE Care Act would address these issues by helping clinicians and practices adopt innovative integrated delivery models such as the Primary Care Behavioral Health Model and Collaborative Care Model. By facilitating coordinated care between health professionals, in the primary care setting, these team-based models have the capacity to increase access, reduce wait times for treatments, improve patient outcomes, and reduce overall treatment costs.

The uptake of these innovative models by primary care practices remains low due to the up-front costs associated with implementation. By providing temporarily enhanced Medicare payment rates for behavioral health integration services, as well as technical assistance and quality measures, your legislation would help to address these issues. The COMPLETE Care Act is a logical and much needed step toward ensuring integrated behavioral health care is more widely implemented, and patients can get the mental health and substance use care they require.

We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation and improve outcomes for our patients.

Sincerely,

American Art Therapy Association  
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work  
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Group Psychotherapy Association  
American Mental Health Counselors Association

American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association Services  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Crisis Text Line  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Inseparable  
International OCD Foundation  
Legal Action Center  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute  
Mental Health America  
NHMH-No Health w/o Mental Health  
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH)  
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors  
(NACBHDD)  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
National Council for Mental Wellbeing  
National Federation of Families  
National Register of Health Service Psychologists  
Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health  
Psychotherapy Action Network  
REDC Consortium  
RI International  
The Kennedy Forum  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health  
Trust for America's Health