

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
United States Senate Committee on
Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
United States Senate Committee on
Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
United States Senate Committee on
Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on
Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Capito, and Ranking Member Baldwin:

The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), a coalition of national organizations representing people with mental health conditions and substance use disorders, family members, mental health and addiction providers, advocates and other stakeholders, is committed to strengthening Americans' access to mental health and substance use disorder care. We write in support of S. 2587, the Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies bill as passed and reported out of the Senate Committee on Appropriations on July 31, 2025.

We are still in the midst of our country's mental health and substance use crisis. This important legislation continues funding for vital programs that address the needs of millions of Americans. After hearings and serious bipartisan deliberation by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, we commend the Committee for retaining the longstanding structures, priorities and eligible activities of Agencies and programs that help to maintain our mental and behavioral health infrastructure. Thank you for your leadership in moving this important spending bill forward.

The country continues to face high levels of suicide and overdose deaths, and more than 122 million Americans live in a federally designated Mental Health Provider Shortage Area. The programs and research conducted within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are critical components giving our nation hope to help turn the tide on these crises. Mental health and substance use disorder resources are a key to keep families and neighborhoods whole. Given the gravity of the mental health and substance use crises, we urge continued forward momentum for bipartisan efforts in prevention, treatment and recovery for mental health and substance use disorders for their constituents.

We again commend the work of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and its bipartisan leadership on the FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill as passed by the Senate Committee

on Appropriations on July 31, 2025. The MHLG stands ready to be a resource and to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Rights and Recovery
American Association for Marriage and Family
Therapy
American Association of Psychiatric
Pharmacists
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association Services
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral
Healthcare (AABH)
Children and Adults with Attention-
Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Employees Assistance Professionals Association
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Fountain House
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health & Social
Justice
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Inseparable
International OCD Foundation
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental
Health Nurses
Legal Action Center
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance

Mental Health America
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners
National Association of State Mental Health
Program Directors
National Board for Certified Counselors &
Affiliates
National Council on Problem Gambling
National Eating Disorders Association
National Federation of Families
National League for Nursing
National Register of Health Service
Psychologists
Postpartum Support International
Sandy Hook Promise
SMART Recovery
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent
Health
The Trevor Project
Tourette Association of America
Treatment Communities of America
Trust for America's Health
Western Youth Services
Youth Villages

CC: Chairman Tom Cole
Chairman Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
Leader John Thune
Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
Speaker Mike Johnson
Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries