

October 28, 2024

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, Chair Smith, Ranking Member Neal, Chair McMorris Rodgers, and Ranking Member Pallone,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong support for the Connecting Our Medical Providers with Links to Expand Tailored and Effective (COMPLETE) Care Act (H.R. 5819/S. 1378).

As you well know, ongoing workforce shortages and a lack of care coordination continue to impede patient access to much needed behavioral health services. 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.

Unfortunately, despite robust evidence demonstrating improved patient outcomes, and availability for reimbursement, uptake of integrated care models remains low due to the up-front costs associated with implementation. To help support and encourage adoption of behavioral health integration in the primary care setting, the COMPLETE Care Act would temporarily increase the Medicare payment for existing integrated care codes and provide technical assistance to practices. It is a logical and much needed step toward ensuring integrated behavioral health care is more widely implemented, so that patients can get the care they require to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

As you continue your important work to help support those struggling to access needed mental health and substance use disorder services, we urge your support of this important legislation in any year end package.

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Physician Associates
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association on Health and Disability
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists
American College of Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
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
Association of Medicine and Psychiatry
Blue Shield of California
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Clinical Social Work Association
Crisis Text Line
Connections Health Solutions
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action
Harvard / Boston Medical Center
Harvard Medical School
Inseparable
International OCD Foundation
Lakeshore Foundation
Legal Action Center
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
MEDIS, LLC
Mental Health America
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH)
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
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
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
NHMH - No Health w/o Mental Health
Penn Medicine, Department of Psychiatry
Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health

Premise Health
Primary Care Collaborative
Primary Care Development Corporation
Psychotherapy Action Network
REDC Consortium
Shatterproof
The Kennedy Forum
Trust for America's Health
VillageMD