

July 14, 2022

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rosen and Senator Cassidy:

The undersigned national organizations in the mental and behavioral health community write to express our strong support for the *Expanding Access to Mental Health Training Act* (S.4461). This legislation will reauthorize and expand the Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT) program, an important grant program administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration.

As you know, the MHAT program provides grant funding to help train individuals to respond to mental health crises and to support those living with mental health disorders. It funds programs which help participants recognize the signs and symptoms of mental disorders and to connect those with mental health disorders to school or community-based mental health agencies.

The MHAT program also provides funding to train emergency services personnel, Veterans, law enforcement officers, and others to de-escalate mental health crises. The program also helps raise awareness of existing resources that are available for individuals living with a mental health disorder.

The *Expanding Access to Mental Health Training Act* will reauthorize and extend the MHAT program, authorizing additional funding for the program and extending its authorization through fiscal year 2027. This legislation will expand the scope of the MHAT program to include suicide intervention and prevention training as an eligible use of grant funding.

By improving and reauthorizing the MHAT program, S.4461 will help countless Americans impacted by mental and behavioral health disorders. We respectfully urge its swift passage, and we thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to this important issue.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom

American Academy of Nurse Anesthesiology

American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare

American Association on Health and Disability

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

American Counseling Association

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Group Psychotherapy Association

American Mental Health Counselors Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association

Anxiety and Depression Association of America

Association for Ambulatory Behavioral
Healthcare

Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness

Children and Adults with Attention-
Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

Clinical Social Work Association

College of Psychiatric and Neurologic
Pharmacists (CPNP)

Crisis Text Line

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy
& Action

Education Development Center

Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and
Social Justice

International Society for Psychiatric Mental
Health Nurses

The Kennedy Forum

Lakeshore Foundation

Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance

Mental Health America

National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Association for Children's Behavioral
Health

National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners

National Association of Social Workers

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

National Eating Disorders Association

National Federation of Families

National League for Nursing

National Register of Health Service
Psychologists

Psychotherapy Action Network (PsiAN)

REDC

The Trevor Project

Trust for America's Health