

July 15, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin, Senator Capito, Senator Duckworth, and Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your commitment to championing mental health for children and families. The undersigned mental and behavioral health organizations join to voice our strong support for S.2086, the RISE from Trauma Act. This legislation will enhance and create programs to support the mental health of youth and families who are recovering from or may experience trauma, expanding access to vital mental health care.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, our country was in the throes of a mental health crisis – one that was particularly striking among children and adolescents. Late last year, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued a youth mental health advisory citing rises in mental health symptoms like suicidal ideation and persistent sadness and hopelessness among young people that occurred pre-pandemic.<sup>i</sup> For youth ages 10-24, suicide was the second leading cause of death in 2020.<sup>ii</sup> It remains to be seen exactly what impact an isolating global pandemic will have on the mental health of our children. We must take action to empower our youth and equip children and families with the tools and resiliency necessary to recognize symptoms and access help when they need it.

As you know, the RISE from Trauma Act will provide critical training for frontline providers, resources for families, and programs to mitigate youth exposure to traumatic situations. This legislation will create pilot programs to support children dealing with trauma, fund grants for communities to establish trauma prevention projects and interventions to support hospital patients struggling with substance use disorders, suicide attempts, or violence. Furthermore, it requires frontline service providers to receive training about trauma, toxic stress, and resilience and funds grants to provide clinical training for infant and early childhood mental health.

By offering trauma-informed training for providers and bolstering youth mental health programming, children and adolescents will gain the awareness and skills they need to avoid and cope with trauma in healthy and responsible ways.

We thank you for sponsoring this important legislation and urge its swift passage through Congress. We look forward to working together in the future to support and protect the mental health of future generations.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare  
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

American Counseling Association  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Group Psychotherapy Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Psychological Association (APA)  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Children's Hospital Association  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Crisis Text Line  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
Psychotherapy Action Network (PsiAN)  
Sandy Hook Promise  
The Jed Foundation  
Trust for America's Health  
2020 Mom

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-youth-mental-health-advisory.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/facts/index.html#:~:text=In%202020%2C%20suicide%20was%20among,%2D14%20and%2025%2D34.&text=Some%20groups%20have%20higher%20suicide,such%20as%20where%20someone%20liv>  
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