

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 2646
OFFERED BY M . _____**

Add at the appropriate place the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT REPUBLICAN'S**
2 **FAILURE TO FUND EXISTING BEHAVIORAL**
3 **HEALTH PROGRAMS NEGATIVELY IMPACTS**
4 **ACCESS TO CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH**
5 **MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

7 (1) Failing to provide funding for authorized
8 behavioral health programs negatively impacts ac-
9 cess to care for individuals with mental illness and
10 substance use disorders.

11 (2) Authorizing new programs without commit-
12 ting to provide new federal funding also limits our
13 ability to provide services to individuals with mental
14 illness and substance use disorders.

15 (3) The Republican-led Congress has failed to
16 provide funding for authorized behavioral health pro-
17 grams, including behavioral health programs author-
18 ized by the Affordable Care Act, that could already

1 be making a huge difference for individuals with
2 mental illness and substance use disorders.

3 (4) The Republican-led Congress failed to fund
4 the pediatric specialist loan repayment program that
5 would have provided loan repayment of up to
6 \$35,000 for each year of services (for a maximum
7 of 3 years) to practicing or in-training pediatric spe-
8 cialists and surgeons, as well as child and adolescent
9 psychiatrists, who commit to serving at least 2 years
10 in a health professional shortage areas. Failure to
11 fund that program has limited our ability to recruit
12 child and adolescent psychiatrists to serve in medi-
13 cally underserved areas.

14 (5) The Republican-led Congress failed to fund
15 the Centers of Excellence for Depression program
16 which would support institutions of higher education
17 or research institutions to establish national centers
18 of excellence for depression to engage in activities
19 related to the treatment of depressive disorders, in-
20 cluding major depression, bipolar disorder, and re-
21 lated mood disorders. Those centers would have car-
22 ried out such activities as integrating basic, clinical,
23 or health services interdisciplinary research and
24 practice in the development, implementation, and
25 dissemination of evidenced-based interventions for

1 depressive disorders; providing training and tech-
2 nical assistance to mental health professionals and
3 disseminating translational research with a focus on
4 meeting the needs of individuals with depressive dis-
5 orders; and developing and implementing treatment
6 standards, clinical guidelines, and protocols that em-
7 phasize primary prevention, early intervention, treat-
8 ment for, and recovery from, depressive disorders.

9 (6) The Republican-led Congress failed to fund
10 the Primary Care Extension Program that would
11 have provided grants to fund local primary care ex-
12 tension agencies to support and educate primary
13 care providers about preventive medicine, chronic
14 disease, and mental health services. Failure to pro-
15 vide funding for this program has limited our ability
16 to expand training for primary care providers on
17 mental health services – training that is particularly
18 important for expanding access to mental health
19 services in rural and other medically underserved
20 communities.

21 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
22 gress that Congress must commit to—

23 (1) fully funding existing behavioral health pro-
24 grams; and

1 (2) providing new federal funding to support
2 the new programs that would be authorized as part
3 of any mental health legislation.

