



**Statement for the Record of
KENDRA DAVENPORT
President and CEO of Easterseals
Before the THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
On H.R. 2283, Recognizing Community Organizations for Veteran Engagement and
Recovery Act (RECOVER ACT)
January 13, 2025**

On behalf of Easterseals' National Office and its network of 70 Affiliates operating in thousands of communities across the country, Easterseals urges support for H.R. 2283, the Recognizing Community Organizations for Veteran Engagement and Recovery Act (RECOVER Act), a critical piece of legislation that addresses the ongoing mental health crisis facing America's veterans.

Easterseals is a national nonprofit organization providing essential services to people with disabilities, older adults, veterans, and their families. For more than 100 years, Easterseals has delivered community-based, person-centered programs that respond to local needs while maintaining national standards of quality and accountability. Each year, Easterseals makes a lasting difference in the lives of millions of Americans.

Supporting veterans and military families is a core component of Easterseals' mission. Across its national network, Easterseals delivers a comprehensive suite of services designed to assist veterans and their families as they transition to civilian life and work to maintain long-term stability. These services include employment and career support, mental health and wellness programs, caregiver and family services, and housing and community reintegration.

H.R. 2283 would establish a three-year pilot program to evaluate whether evidence-based mental health care delivered by nonprofit outpatient mental health providers can improve outcomes for veterans. This approach recognizes the critical role that trusted, community-based organizations play in complementing the Department of Veterans Affairs' mental health system and expanding access to care beyond traditional clinical settings.

Key benefits of the RECOVER Act include improving access to timely and accessible mental health care and strengthening partnerships between the VA and nonprofit providers. By leveraging community-based capacity, the legislation would help reduce strain on VA facilities while preserving veterans' access to VA services.

Easterseals strongly supports the passage of H.R. 2283 and respectfully urges the Committee to advance this legislation. By expanding access to community-based, evidence-driven mental health services, the RECOVER Act would help address critical gaps in care, reduce the risk of mental health crises—including suicide—and ensure that veterans receive timely, effective support where they live. Easterseals stands ready to work with Congress, the Department of

Veterans Affairs, and community partners to help ensure the successful implementation of this legislation for the benefit of America's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kendra Davenport". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "D".

Kendra Davenport
President & CEO
Easterseals, Inc.