



May 17, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Supporting Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act (HR 7666)**

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Rodgers,

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)—the organization representing the state executives responsible for the \$41 billion public mental health service delivery systems serving 7.5 million people annually in 50 states, 6 territories, and the District of Columbia—thanks you for your focus and leadership in updating needed programs essential to the operation of the public mental health system. We applaud the critical steps you have taken in HR 7666 to introduce bipartisan solutions for pressing needs in the specific areas of care coordination and crisis response.

In particular, we commend the statutory specifications set for crisis care coordination and the further outlined best practices for the crisis response continuum of care. With the impending launch of the three-digit 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline code, these standards will ensure that someone in crisis will receive appropriate attention, no matter their level of need. Your further investments in authorizing the Mental Health Block Grant set-aside for evidence-based crisis care services and in establishing a Behavioral Health Crisis Care Coordinating Office build a secure foundation for guiding and supporting the robust development of crisis care.

Thank you again for taking an active approach in building our nation's care for substance use and mental health. Achieving these policy changes provides individuals and families the services that best meet their health care needs. We look forward to working with you in championing these important efforts.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Hepburn, M.D.

Executive Director

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)