

MEADOWS
MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY INSTITUTE

May 10, 2022

The Honorable Lizzie Fletcher
119 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fletcher:

Thank you for your continued leadership and support for individuals with behavioral health needs and their families. The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute has been proud to support your bill, H.R. 5218, the Collaborate in an Orderly and Cohesive Manner Act.

The Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) is the most extensively researched and evidence-based integration strategy to detect and treat mental health and substance use disorders before they become crises,¹ and it is now being implemented at scale in healthcare systems serving millions of Texans.² CoCM has been shown to reduce depression, bipolar and anxiety disorders, SUD, suicidal ideation, and suicide completion.³ At the Meadows Institute, we have modeled that universal access to CoCM for depression could save more than 14,500 lives a year.⁴

Despite circulated assertions to the contrary, we do not support proposed amendments that would strip collaborative care from the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022.

Thank you again for your continued leadership. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



John Snook
Chief Policy Officer

¹ Carlo, A. D., Barnett, B. S., & Unützer, J. (2021). Harnessing collaborative care to meet mental health demands in the era of COVID-19. *JAMA Psychiatry*, 78(4), 355. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2020.3216>

² Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. (2021). *Lone star depression challenge*. <https://mmhpi.org/the-lone-star-depression-challenge/>

³ Bower, P., Gilbody, S., Richards, D., Fletcher, J., & Sutton, A. (2006). Collaborative care for depression in primary care: Making sense of a complex intervention: Systematic review and meta-regression. *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, 189(6), 484–493. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.bp.106.023655>;

⁴ Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. (2020). COVID-19 Briefing: Modeling the Effects of Collaborative Care and Medication-Assisted Treatment to Prevent COVID-Related Suicide and Overdose Deaths. <https://mmhpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID-MHSUDPrevention.pdf>