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March 7, 2018

The Honorable John Katko
U.S. House of Representatives
1620 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Katko and Representative Thompson:

AARP, with its nearly 38 million members in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

AARP is pleased to endorse the bipartisan *Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act* (H.R. 3032). Your legislation would provide for coverage of mental health counselor and marriage and family therapist services under Medicare Part B. Increasing access to mental health services is especially important as mental and behavioral health issues are becoming an increasing problem for older Americans – a problem that will only escalate further as the population ages.

Nearly one in five older adults in this country has one or more mental health or substance abuse conditions. This population is inadequately served by our health care system. AARP supports expanding the list of covered providers who can deliver these needed services and adequate reimbursement for mental health and substance abuse services. H.R. 3032 will improve older Americans' access to licensed mental health professionals.

AARP appreciates your bipartisan leadership to help improve mental health services for seniors. We look forward to working with you on this and other issues important to older Americans. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Andrew Scholnick of our Government Affairs staff at 202-434-3770 or ascholnick@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Rogers
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs

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March 9, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
United States Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso and Senator Stabenow:

AARP, with its nearly 38 million members in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

AARP is pleased to endorse the bipartisan *Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act (S. 1879)*. Your legislation would provide for coverage of mental health counselor and marriage and family therapist services under Medicare Part B. Increasing access to mental health services is especially important as mental and behavioral health issues are becoming an increasing problem for older Americans – a problem that will only escalate further as the population ages.

Nearly one in five older adults in this country has one or more mental health or substance abuse conditions. This population is inadequately served by our health care system. AARP supports expanding the list of covered providers who can deliver these needed services and adequate reimbursement for mental health and substance abuse services. S. 1879 will improve older Americans' access to licensed mental health professionals.

AARP appreciates your bipartisan leadership to help improve mental health services for seniors. We look forward to working with you on this and other issues important to older Americans. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Andrew Scholnick of our Government Affairs staff at 202-434-3770 or ascholnick@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Rogers
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs