

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: *Committee Hearing on “High Anxiety and Stress: Legislation to Improve Mental Health During Crisis”*

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

On behalf of Rosecrance Health Network, thank you for holding the legislative hearing on improving mental health during crisis. We appreciate that the Committee places such importance on this critical issue. As a nonprofit behavioral health provider, we know the critical role mental health plays in an individual’s health and the negative impacts that recent events have had on many Americans. Therefore, we applaud the efforts of the Committee and the important legislation it will consider.

About Rosecrance

Rosecrance is a private not-for-profit organization offering behavioral health services for children, adolescents, adults, and families throughout the country. Rosecrance was founded in 1916 as an orphanage and throughout the years, our work has evolved to meet the needs of children and families in our community and beyond.

Today, Rosecrance is one of the Midwest’s leading providers of behavioral health services and is nationally recognized for excellence in mental health and substance use disorder treatment. We treat over 40,000 clients annually at 63 locations in 3 states (Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin) and employ a workforce of 1,200 employees. Rosecrance offers comprehensive addiction and mental health services for adolescents and adults, including prevention, withdrawal management, residential care, outpatient treatment, experiential therapies, and family education.

Funding for Nonprofit Behavioral Health Providers

Unfortunately, due to the current public health emergency, Rosecrance is experiencing significant fiscal turmoil. To date, we have only received \$52,019 in federal funding (\$23,019 from the Provider Relief Fund; \$29,000 grant from EIDL). We employ too many people to qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Rosecrance is losing \$700,000 each month in revenues due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. We have begun to lay off staff due to lack of federal funding. We need federal funding to address significant lost revenues and increased expenses due to the pandemic.

Therefore, we request a direct appropriation for large nonprofit behavioral health providers in any future stimulus bill to ensure we can retain our staff so we stand ready to provide high-quality evidence-based mental health and addiction treatment to the millions of Americans who are in need of such treatment.



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Rosecrance Health Network
1021 North Mulford Road
Rockford, Illinois 61107

T 815.391.1000
F 815.391.5041

rosecrance.org

Pending Legislation

- HR 2519 - Improving Mental Health Access from the Emergency Department Act of 2019
 - We ask that you amend this bill to include 24/7 crisis residential and triage programs that act as “mental health ERs”. These programs provide a critical hospital diversion service to ensure that individuals experiencing a mental health crisis are treated in the most appropriate setting with trained and qualified mental health professionals.
 - Rosecrance operates multiple crisis programs that accept individuals in mental health crisis from both EMS and law enforcement. We would appreciate any opportunity to provide more information about these critical programs and the positive impact they have on the entire community.
 - Please consider amending HR 2519 to provide funding for these mental health crisis programs.

- HR 7080 - Stopping the Mental Health Pandemic Act
 - Please support this bill as it would provide critical funding for behavioral health organizations.
 - We propose an increase in appropriations from \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000 to fully fund these grants.

- HR 7147 Creating Resources to Improve Situations of Inherent Severity Act (CRISIS Act)/ HR 7159 - Crisis Care Improvement and Suicide Prevention Act of 2020
 - We agree that funding from the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant be used for crisis services. As discussed above, crisis services are a critical component of the mental health continuum of care.
 - ***We absolutely support increased appropriations for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant so states can ensure they adequately fund crisis services.***

- HR 5201 - Telemental Health Expansion Act of 2019
 - We support this bill as it would allow us to continue expanding access to mental health services for clients who would not otherwise be able to access services.

- H.R. 2874 - Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act
 - We support HR 2874 that would strengthen parity laws and require health plans to disclose how they manage mental health and addiction treatment benefits.
 - We also support the idea of a consumer parity unit as right now jurisdiction over parity is split between several different federal and state government agencies. Having a “one stop shop” for consumers would help ensure individuals can fully access insurance benefits for the mental health and addiction treatment they need.



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We appreciate that the Committee is so interested in this area and we support your efforts to pass meaningful legislation to ensure Americans can access the behavioral healthcare they need. We applaud the important work that you are doing and we stand willing to serve as a resource. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need any information or if you wish to discuss any of our programs or services. Thank you for your consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Eaton
Chief Executive Officer
peaton@rosecrance.org | T 815.387.5610



David Gomel
President
dgomel@rosecrance.org | T 815.387.5659



rosecrance®

Rosecrance Health Network
1021 North Mulford Road
Rockford, Illinois 61107

T 815.391.1000
F 815.391.5041

rosecrance.org

