



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

May 21, 2019

The Honorable Chris Murphy
United States Senate
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Murphy and Cassidy:

On behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA), I am pleased to write in support of the Mental Health Parity Compliance Act of 2019.

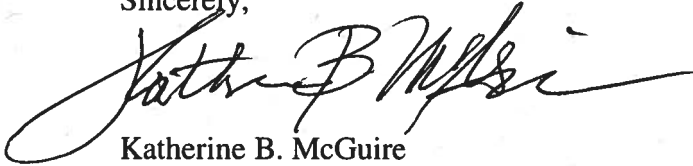
APA is the leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States and is the world's largest association of psychologists. Comprised of researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants and students, APA works to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve people's lives.

APA applauds the introduction of bipartisan legislation to strengthen implementation and enforcement of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA), the federal law covering mental health and substance use disorders treatment at parity with other health benefits. Since the law's passage, we have strongly advocated for full compliance and enforcement so both the letter and spirit of this landmark law can be realized, and patients requiring mental health or substance use disorders treatment can equitably receive needed care.

Notably, the Mental Health Parity and Compliance Act would require issuers to submit a comparative analysis of their nonquantitative treatment limitations (NQTLs) for medical versus mental health and substance use disorder benefits upon the HHS Secretary's request. It would also require the Secretary to request such analyses when parity complaints are received as well as from 50 randomly selected plans annually, report to Congress on the compiled results each year, and use the results to issue updated parity compliance guidance every two years. In addition, the Secretary would report any non-compliance to the Inspectors General of HHS, Labor and Treasury. At a time when our nation is facing opioid and suicide epidemics, we applaud any efforts to improve compliance with parity.

Thank you for your continued bipartisan partnership and commitment to improving the lives of Americans with mental health and substance use disorders. We look forward to working with you to ensure the enactment of this legislation. If APA can provide any additional information, please have your staff contact Laurel Stine, J.D., Director of Congressional Affairs at lstine@apa.org, Alan Nessman, J.D., Senior Special Counsel, at anessman@apa.org and Connie Galietti, J.D., Director, Legal & Professional Affairs at cgalietti@apa.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine B. McGuire". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Katherine B. McGuire
Chief Advocacy Officer