

June 9, 2014

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Joe Pitts  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health

2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Upton and Pitts:

The undersigned organizations are writing to urge the Committee to take action early this summer on comprehensive mental health reform.

We are very grateful and applaud the leadership of Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Tim Murphy for introducing H.R. 3717, the "Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act," which addresses many essential issues for consideration and debate. He has been tireless in his advocacy and education of Congress and the public.

In our view, it is essential that continued work on mental health and substance abuse reform not be stalled but instead move forward legislatively. The issues have been well discussed and the time to act is now. In this way, we will keep faith with calls from all quarters to address pressing and often unmet behavioral, developmental, emotional and mental health needs in America.

Together with interested colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have expressed support for H.R. 3717 and other leading members of the Committee, who also have introduced legislation and spoken out in need of reform, we urge consideration as soon as possible of key provisions of these bills.

As part of this process we support open and constructive dialogue among Republican and Democratic committee members with the goal of advancing bi-partisan legislation that addresses our mutual goal of improving the mental health system for those that rely on these critical healthcare services.

We look forward to working closely with you and others to keep advancing the mental health reform agenda in Congress. Thank you for your considerations of our views.

Sincerely,

American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Psychiatric Association  
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems