

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House U.S. House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader U.S. House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Sent via electronic mail

June 30, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer,

The undersigned groups appreciate the recent actions taken by Congress and the Administration to address mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) care during this unprecedented time. At this time we seek to advocate for the inclusion of another provision, the MIND Act.

On May 19, 2020, Congressmen Brendan Boyle (D-PA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced H.R. 6926, the Meeting IMD Needs with Direction (MIND) Act. The proposed legislation seeks to waive the Medicaid Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) Exclusion for the duration of the national public health emergency declaration and for 6 months after the removal of the declaration. By lifting the IMD exclusion, individuals who have sought mental health and SUD treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, will gain additional resources and access to care.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an increased awareness of the impact on the behavioral health of individuals and communities and the need for access to care. The deaths of loved ones, job losses, isolation and underlying mental health and SUD needs are just some of the health issues that have been exacerbated during recent months and will unfortunately take some time to address, even as we move towards a “new normal”. At this time, we believe providing access to services that help the most vulnerable individuals who are seeking support for mental health conditions and drug and alcohol treatment for substance use disorders, is in the best interest of our communities. As a number of Medicaid provisions also end once the national emergency declaration is lifted, we believe there is a need to have a glide path created, post national emergency declaration, to help these individuals get the care they need.

We appreciate the efforts of Congressmen Boyle and Fitzpatrick, as well as their staffs, on coming up with a legislative solution to address the concerns we brought before them. That is why the signatories below are supportive of this legislation and seek its inclusion in the next COVID-19 legislative package.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Acadia Healthcare
Alpine Springs
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Mental Health Counselors Association
America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
AmeriHealth Caritas
Amity Foundation
Anthem
Association of Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW)
Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP)
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA)
Bowling Green Brandywine Treatment Center
Bradford Recovery Center
Broad Street
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives (CAADPE)
Caron Treatment Centers
Center Point, Inc.
Coal Township
Coalition of Louisiana Addiction Service & Prevention Providers (CLASPP)
Common Ground
Community House
Concept 90
Cove Forge Behavioral Health Center
Crossroads
Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania
Ellen O'Brien Gaiser Center
Fountain Springs
Gateway Rehabilitation Center Tom Rutter House
Gaudenzia, Inc.
Gibson House
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Good Friends, Inc.
Greenbriar Treatment Center
Harwood House
House of Healing
Huntington Creek Recovery Center
Integrity House
Joy of Living
The Kennedy Forum
Kindred House
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Libertae, Inc.

Lower Bucks
Magellan Health
Meadville Medical Center
Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA)
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Council for Behavioral Health
National League for Nursing
New Destiny
New Image
New Beginnings
New Directions Behavioral Health
New Outlook
New Perspectives of White Deer Run of Lebanon
Odyssey House Louisiana
Pennsylvania Halfway House Association
Pennsylvania Organization for Women in Early Recovery
Pennsylvania State Coroners Association
Pocono Mountain Recovery Center
Pyramid Healthcare, Inc.
Re-entry House
Renewal Center of White Deer Run
Self-Help Movement, Inc.
Serenity House
SHIELDS For Families
Snow House
Tarzana Treatment Centers Inc. (TTC)
Together House
Treatment Communities of America
Treatment Trends, Inc.
Vantage
Washington House
West Chester House
White Deer Run Allenwood
White Deer Run of Lancaster
White Deer Run of Lehigh
White Deer Run of York
Winner Program