Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Burr,

We, the 153 leading national, state, and local experts on mental health and substance use disorders, first want to thank you for your leadership on the emergency funding for youth and families’ mental health passed in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. While these emergency resources will significantly help to start addressing the nation’s mental health crisis, critical mental health program authorizations from the 21st Century CURES Act will soon expire and must be reauthorized by the end of the year. The House already passed a reauthorization package in June through H.R. 7666, Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act, which is a strong base for the Committee to build off of. We know that America still faces an enduring mental health crisis, particularly for youth. Therefore, as the Senate returns from August Recess, we strongly urge you to bring forward and pass these necessary mental health provisions from H.R. 7666 before December.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a severe toll on the mental health of Americans, with youth experiencing the steepest declines in mental health. Among adolescents aged 13-18, overdoses have jumped 119%, intentional self-harm and eating disorders hospitalizations have doubled, and children’s hospitals have reported a 45% increase in cases of self-injury and suicide.1,2,3,4 Aggravated by the infant formula crisis, maternal mental health conditions have also surged, with pregnant and postpartum moms experiencing anxiety and depression at 3-4 times higher rates than pre-pandemic.5

The comprehensive package passed by the House includes and bolsters many federal programs that address the mental health and substance use crisis, including:

- Reauthorizations for youth suicide prevention programs and initiatives;
- Reauthorizations and improvements to the substance use and mental health block grants
- Workforce trainings and pipeline development;
- Mental health parity law enforcement and compliance provisions, including protection for frontline workers;
- Guidance and funding for quality assurance and assessment of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline;

5 A cross-national study of factors associated with women’s perinatal mental health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic | PLOS ONE
- Pediatric and maternal mental health access programs; and
- Other programs of regional and national significance.

Without Senate action, most of these programs will expire in December – therefore, it is imperative that the HELP Committee act swiftly to bring forward a CURES package and move it through the Chamber. As mental health and substance use disorder providers and advocates, we have seen the sharp rise in diagnoses, hospitalizations, overdoses, and suicides firsthand. We thank you again for your enduring work to secure mental health funding infusions in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and urge you to continue your leadership by reauthorizing and expanding these critical CURES provisions this fall.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom
Academy for Eating Disorders
Active Minds
ACTNow for Mental Health
Alabama - Trinity Health
Alaska Postpartum Support International Chapter
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Birth Centers
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP)
American College Health Association (ACHA)
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Counseling Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American School Health Association
Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD)
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
California - Eating Disorder Therapy Los Angeles
California - Eating Disorders Resource Center
California - Maternal Mental Health NOW
California - Monte Nido and Affiliates
California - The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
California - Trinity Health
Clinical Social Work Association
Colorado Postpartum Support International Chapter
Connecticut - Trinity Health
Delaware - Trinity Health
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
Florida - Centerstone
Florida - Monte Nido and Affiliates
Florida - The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
Florida - Trinity Health
Georgia - Accanto Health
Georgia - Monte Nido and Affiliates
Georgia - The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
Georgia - Trinity Health
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
HealthyWomen
Idaho - Trinity Health
Illinois - Centerstone
Illinois - Monte Nido and Affiliates
Illinois - SunCloud Health
Illinois - The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
Illinois - Trinity Health
Indiana - Centerstone
Indiana - Trinity Health
Inseparable
International OCD Foundation
International Society for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses
Iowa - Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa
Iowa - Trinity Health
Jewish Healthcare Foundation
Kentucky - Centerstone
Louisiana - River Oaks Hospital Eating Disorder Treatment Center
March for Moms
Maryland - Bethesda Women's Mental Health
Maryland - Monte Nido and Affiliates
Maryland - The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
Maryland - Trinity Health
Massachusetts - Accanto Health
Massachusetts - Doc Wayne Youth Services
Massachusetts - Monte Nido and Affiliates
Massachusetts - The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
Massachusetts - Trinity Health
Massachusetts Postpartum Depression Fund
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Mental Health America
Michigan - Trinity Health
Michigan Eating Disorders Alliance
Minnesota - Accanto Health
Minnesota - Trinity Health
Minnesota - Women's Wellbeing Program, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Missouri - Monte Nido and Affiliates
Missouri Eating Disorders Council
Mom Congress
Montana - Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, The Montana Coalition, Inc. (HMHB-MT)
Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association Inc (MEDA)
National Alliance for Eating Disorders
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Psycho-Social Obstetricians and Gynecologists
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders
National Council for Mental Wellbeing
National Eating Disorders Association
National League for Nursing
National Partnership for Women & Families
Nebraska - Trinity Health
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
New Jersey - The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
New Jersey - Trinity Health
New York - Monte Nido and Affiliates
New York - Mount Sinai Center of Excellence in Eating and Weight Disorders
New York - Postpartum Resource Center of New York
New York - The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
New York - Trinity Health
North Carolina - Accanto Health
North Carolina - Carolina Resource Center for Eating Disorders
North Carolina - East Carolina University
North Carolina - Lutz, Alexander & Assoc. Nutrition Therapy
North Carolina - Nutritious Thoughts, LLC
North Carolina - The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
North Carolina - Trinity Health
North Carolina Postpartum Support International Chapter
Ohio - Accanto Health
Ohio - Mental Health America of Ohio
Ohio - Trinity Health
Oregon - Amanda Birkhead Nutrition Counseling LLC
Oregon - Monte Nido and Affiliates
Oregon - Trinity Health
Pennsylvania - Accanto Health
Pennsylvania - Monte Nido and Affiliates
Pennsylvania - The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
Pennsylvania - Trinity Health
Pennsylvania - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Postpartum Support International
Project HEAL
Psychotherapy Action Network
REDC Consortium
Return to Zero: HOPE
RI International
Sandy Hook Promise
Shades Of Blue Project
South Dakota - Trinity Health
Tennessee - Centerstone
Tennessee - The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
Texas - Monte Nido and Affiliates
Texas - Trinity Health
The Colette Louise Tisdahl Foundation
The College for Behavioral Health Leadership
The Jed Foundation
The Jewish Federations of North America
The Kennedy Forum
Trust for America's Health
Virginia - Accanto Health
Virginia - Monte Nido and Affiliates
Washington - Accanto Health
Washington - Opal: Food and Body Wisdom
Washington - Perinatal Support Washington
WithAll
ZERO TO THREE