

January 29, 2016

The Honorable Carlos Curbelo
United States House of Representatives
1429 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
United States House of Representatives
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Curbelo and Napolitano:

The undersigned national medical, mental health, and addiction treatment advocacy organizations write in strong support of your Mental Health Awareness Semipostal Stamp Act (H.R. 3640), which recognizes the importance of advancing neuroscience research, reducing stigma, and preventing suicide for individuals with mental illness, including substance use disorders.

The Mental Health Awareness and Semipostal Stamp Act directs the United States Postal Service to issue a special postage stamp as a way for the public to contribute to funding critical research towards understanding the dynamics of the human brain. Proceeds from the sale of the stamp would transfer to the National Institute of Mental Health to support the Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. This revolutionary collaborative project is pioneering new research to find cures for numerous disorders of the brain including schizophrenia, epilepsy, autism, and Alzheimer's through the development and application of innovative technologies.

As pervasive stereotyping and unfortunate misconceptions surrounding mental illness continues, a Postal Service campaign of this nature stands to reduce stigma related to mental illness by increasing awareness of these diseases and other disorders of the brain. Your effort combats these misconceptions among the public and generates a dialogue about critical needs in mental health access and treatment.

Thank you for your leadership and support of vital neuroscience research and innovative treatment. We look forward to working with you and other Members of Congress to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Neurology
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Brain Coalition

American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Orthopsychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Clinical Social Work Guild
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy and Action
International Bipolar Foundation
International Essential Tremor Foundation
The Jewish Federations of North America
Mental Health America
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association
Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America
Tourette Association of America
The Trevor Project
Tug McGraw Foundation