

September 18, 2017

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
520 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham, Senator Cassidy, Senator Heller and Senator Johnson:

The undersigned organizations are writing to share our serious concerns with several of the health system reforms included in the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) proposal. We are very concerned that the GCHJ's proposed changes to our health care system will result in reductions in health care coverage, particularly for individuals with substance use disorders and mental illness, and we cannot support the bill.

We collectively represent consumers, families, providers, health care and social service professionals, criminal justice professionals, advocates and allied organizations who are committed to meaningful and comprehensive policies to reduce the toll of substance use disorders and mental illness through prevention, treatment and recovery support services.

In the face of the opioid overdose and suicide epidemics, equitable access to a full continuum of mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, including medications to treat substance use disorders and mental illness, must be an essential component of health care coverage. It is also critical that substance use disorders and mental illness be covered on par with other medical conditions consistent with the *Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act* (MHPAEA).

We recognize that the GCHJ would require coverage of mental health and substance use disorder treatment consistent with MHPAEA as part of the new Medicaid Flexibility Program. However, we do not support many of the other changes to the health care system in the proposal that would result in reduced access to substance use disorder and mental health treatment, including changes that would cap federal funding for Medicaid, end the Medicaid expansion, and eliminate mental health and substance use disorder benefit protections for Americans insured through the small group and individual markets. **We have serious concerns with provisions in the proposal that would allow states to easily waive Essential Health Benefit requirements, end Medicaid expansion and change Medicaid to a per-capita or block grant financing system.**

The Medicaid expansion in particular has led to significant increases in coverage and treatment access for persons with substance use disorders and mental illness. In states that expanded Medicaid, the share of people with substance use disorders or mental illness who were hospitalized but uninsured fell from about 20 percent in 2013 to 5 percent by mid-2015, and Medicaid expansion has been associated with an 18.3 percent reduction in the unmet need for substance use disorder treatment services among low-income adults.

Rolling back the Medicaid expansion and/or fundamentally changing Medicaid's financing structure to cap spending on health care services will certainly reduce access to evidence-based treatments and reverse much or all progress made on the opioid crisis last year. Capping federal Medicaid funding through per-capita caps or block grants would strain state budgets and likely force states to cut benefits, lower provider reimbursement rates, and/or limit access to care. These changes would be devastating to states grappling with the current opioid overdose and suicide epidemics. Moreover, the loss of Medicaid-covered mental health and substance

use disorder services for adults would result in more family disruption and out-of-home placements for children, significant trauma which has its own long-term health effects and a further burden on a child welfare system that is struggling to meet the current demand for foster home capacity.

The ACA's Medicaid expansion, Essential Health Benefit requirements for mental health and substance use disorder treatment coverage, and extension of parity protections to the individual and small group market have surely reduced the burden of the opioid misuse and overdose and suicide epidemics and saved lives. Substance use disorder and mental health treatment benefits must continue to be available to Americans enrolled in the individual, small and large group markets as well as Medicaid plans and that these benefits are compliant with the *Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act*.

Finally, throughout this process, we implore you to keep in mind how Congressional decisions will affect the millions of Americans suffering from substance use disorders and mental illness who may lose their health care coverage entirely or see reductions in benefits that impede access to needed treatment.

Sincerely,

1. 10,000 beds
2. Acadia Healthcare
3. Adcare Educational Institute
4. Addiction Education Society
5. Addiction Haven
6. Addiction Resource Council
7. Addiction Services Council
8. Addiction Policy Forum
9. Addiction Treatment Center of New England
10. Addiction Connections Resource
11. Advocates for Recovery Colorado
12. Advocates, Inc.
13. Alabama Society of Addiction Medicine
14. Alano Club of Portland
15. Alcohol & Addictions Resource Center
16. Alcohol/Drug Council of North Carolina
17. Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
18. Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.
19. Amesbury Psychological Center, Inc.
20. American Correctional Association
21. American Federation of State, County and Municipal, Employees (AFSCME)
22. American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
23. American Art Therapy Association
24. American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
25. American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD)
26. American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
27. American Association on Health and Disability
28. American Dance Therapy Association
29. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
30. American Group Psychotherapy Association
31. American Medical Student Association
32. American Mental Health Counselors Association
33. American Nurses Association
34. American Psychiatric Association
35. American Psychological Association
36. American Society of Addiction Medicine

37. Amida Care
38. A New PATH
39. Anthony's Act
40. Anxiety and Depression Association of America
41. Arc of South Norfolk, The
42. Arise & Flourish
43. Arizona's Children Association
44. Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
45. Arizona Society of Addiction Medicine
46. Arkansas Society of Addiction Medicine
47. Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
48. Association for Behavioral Healthcare of Massachusetts
49. Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP)
50. Association for Community Human Service Agencies
51. Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
52. Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc.
53. Association of Flight Attendants – CWA, AFL-CIO
54. Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)
55. Association of Recovery Schools
56. Association of Recovery Community Organizations
57. Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
58. A Stepping Stone to Success
59. Atlantic Prevention Resources, Inc.
60. Avanti Wellness
61. Awakening Recovery
62. BAMSI
63. Bangor Area Recovery Network, Inc.
64. Bay Cove Human Services
65. Bay State Community Services, Inc.
66. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
67. Behavioral Health Network, Inc.
68. Better Life in Recovery
69. Bill Wilson Center
70. Boston Alcohol and Substance Abuse Programs, Inc.
71. Boston Healthcare for the Homeless
72. Boston Public Health Commission
73. BreakingTheCycles
74. Bridge of Central Massachusetts, Inc., The
75. Bridgewell
76. Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, The
77. Brookline Community Mental Health Center
78. Bullhook Community Health Center, Inc.
79. Burke Recovery
80. California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives (CAADPE)
81. California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
82. California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
83. California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions
84. California Society of Addiction Medicine
85. Cambridge Health Alliance
86. Camelot Care Centers, Inc.
87. Cape Cod Healthcare Centers for Behavioral Health
88. Capital Area Project Vox
89. Casa Esperanza

90. Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families
91. Catholic Charities Family Counseling and Guidance Center
92. Catholic Family Center
93. Center for Human Development
94. Center for Open Recovery
95. Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
96. Central City Concern
97. Chautauqua Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Council
98. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition (CRCC)
99. Child & Family Services, Inc.
100. Child and Family Services of New Hampshire
101. Children's Friend, Inc.
102. Children's Home Society of Washington
103. Children's Law Center
104. Children's Services of Roxbury
105. CleanSlate Centers
106. Clergy for a New Drug Policy
107. Clinical and Support Options, Inc.
108. Clinical Social Work Association
109. Coalition of Addiction Students and Professionals Pursuing Advocacy (CASPPA)
110. Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine
111. Community Catalyst
112. Communities for Recovery
113. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
114. Community Counseling of Bristol County, Inc.
115. Community-Minded Enterprises
116. Community Oriented Correctional Health Services (COCHS)
117. Community Services Institute
118. Community Solutions
119. Community Substance Abuse Centers
120. Comrades of Hope
121. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
122. Connecticut Society of Addiction Medicine
123. Counselors Obediently Preventing Substance Abuse (COPS)
124. Cover2Resources
125. Cutchins Programs for Children and Families
126. DarJune Recovery Support Services & Café
127. Dash for Recovery
128. Davis Direction Foundation - The Zone
129. DC Fights Back
130. DC Recovery Community Alliance
131. Delphi Behavioral Health Group/MHD
132. Desert Eagle Addiction Recovery
133. Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.
134. Dimock Community Health Center
135. Disability Rights Pennsylvania
136. Doctors for America
137. Doctors for Recovery
138. Dorchester Recovery Initiative
139. Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania (DASPOP)
140. Drug Policy Alliance
141. Drug Prevention Resources
142. East Bay Agency for Children

143. Easy Does It, Inc.
144. Eating Disorders Coalition
145. Edinburg Center, The
146. Eliot Community Human Services
147. El Paso Alliance
148. Engaged Recovery Community Services
149. Faces and Voices of Recovery
150. Facing Addiction
151. Family Advocates of Georgia, Inc
152. Family Focused Treatment Association
153. Family Service Association
154. Family Service of Greater Boston
155. FAVOR Greenville
156. FAVOR Low Country
157. FAVOR Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
158. FAVOR Pee Dee
159. FAVOR Tri-County
160. FED UP! Coalition
161. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
162. Fenway Health
163. FHR
164. Florida Society of Addiction Medicine
165. Floridians for Recovery
166. Foundation for Recovery
167. Friends of Recovery - New York
168. FSA – Family Service Agency
169. Futures of Palm Beach
170. G III Associates
171. GAAMHA
172. Gandara Center
173. Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
174. Georgia Society of Addiction Medicine
175. Georgians for a Healthy Future
176. Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
177. Gosnold on Cape Cod
178. Gould Farm
179. Granite Pathways
180. Greater Macomb Project Vox
181. Greater Philadelphia Association for Recovery Education
182. Great South Bay Coalition
183. Greater Cincinnati Recovery Resource Collaborative (GCRRC)
184. Griffin Recovery Enterprises
185. Harm Reduction Coalition
186. Health Management Group, LTD
187. High Point Treatment Center
188. Hillview Mental Health Center, Inc.
189. HIV Medicine Association
190. Home for Little Wanderers, The
191. Hope2Gather Foundation
192. HOPE for New Hampshire Recovery
193. Hope House Addiction Services
194. Horizon Health Services
195. IC&RC

196. Indivisible St. Louis
197. Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
198. Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF)
199. Indiana Society of Addiction Medicine
200. International Nurses Society on Addictions
201. Institute for Health and Recovery
202. Iowa Association of Community Providers
203. Iowa Behavioral Health Association
204. Italian Home for Children, Inc.
205. Jackson Area Recovery Community
206. Jewish Family and Children's Services (JF&CS)
207. Joint Coalition on Health
208. Jordan's Hope for Recovery
209. Judge Baker Children's Center
210. Juneau Recovery Community
211. Justice Resource Institute (JRI)
212. Ka Hale Pomaika'i
213. Kentucky Society of Addiction Medicine
214. KEY Program, Inc., The
215. Kyes 2 a 2nd Chance
216. Lahey Health Behavioral Services
217. Lakeshore Foundation
218. Latah Recovery Center
219. Legal Action Center
220. Lifehouse Recovery Connection
221. Lifeline Connections
222. Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc.
223. Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA)
224. Lost Dreams Awaken Center, Inc.
225. Lotus Peer Recovery/SoberKerrville
226. Lowell Community Health Center, Inc.
227. Lowell House, Inc.
228. LUK, Inc.
229. Madison County Council on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse
230. Magnolia Addiction Support
231. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
232. Mariah's Mission Fund of the Mid-Shor Community Foundation
233. Mark Garwood SHARE Foundation
234. Martha's Vineyard Community Services
235. Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine
236. Maryland House Detox
237. Maryland Recovery Organization Connecting Communities (M-ROCC)
238. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)
239. Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine
240. Maxed Out Drug Prevention
241. McShin Foundation
242. Mental Health Association
243. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
244. Messengers of Recovery Awareness
245. MHA of Greater Lowell
246. Michigan's Children
247. Michigan Recovery Voices
248. Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine

249. Middlesex Human Service Agency, Inc
250. Mid-Michigan Recovery Services, Inc.
251. Midwest Society of Addiction Medicine
252. Mi-HOPE - Michigan Heroin & Opiate Prevention and Education
253. Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP)
254. Minnesota Recovery Connection
255. Minnesota Society of Addiction Medicine
256. Missouri Recovery Network
257. MOBER
258. Mountain View Prevention Services, Inc.
259. NAADAC – the Association for Addiction Professionals
260. National Alliance for Medication-Assisted Recovery (NAMA)
261. National Alliance for Recovery Residences
262. National Alliance on Mental Illness
263. National Alliance on Mental Illness – San Mateo County
264. National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
265. National Alliance to End Homelessness
266. National Association for Rural Mental Health
267. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
268. National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
269. National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
270. National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
271. National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)
272. National Association for Children’s Behavioral Health
273. National Association for Rural Mental Health
274. National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
275. National Association of County & City Health Officials
276. National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
277. National Black Justice Coalition
278. National Council for Behavioral Health
279. National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
280. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
281. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of E. San Gabriel & Pomona Valleys
282. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence--Greater Phoenix
283. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – Maryland
284. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – San Diego
285. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of the San Fernando Valley
286. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse-St. Louis Area
287. National Disability Rights Network
288. National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health
289. National Health Care for the Homeless Council
290. National League for Nursing
291. National Safety Council
292. National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
293. Navigate Recovery Gwinnett
294. Nevada Society of Addiction Medicine
295. New Futures and New Futures Kids Count
296. New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
297. New Jersey Society of Addiction Medicine
298. New Life Counseling & Wellness Center, Inc.
299. New Mexico Society of Addiction Medicine
300. New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
301. New York Society of Addiction Medicine

302. New York State Council for Behavioral Health
303. NFI Massachusetts, Inc.
304. NMSAS Recovery Center
305. No Health without Mental Health
306. North Charles, Inc.
307. North Cottage Program, Inc.
308. Northeast Center for Youth and Families, The
309. Northern New England Society of Addiction Medicine
310. Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA)
311. Northwest Indian Treatment Center
312. North Suffolk Mental Health Association, Inc.
313. Northern Rivers Family Services
314. North Carolina Society of Addiction Medicine (NCSAM)
315. O'Brien House
316. Ohio Recovery Housing
317. Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine (OHSAM)
318. Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery & Treatment Association (OCARTA)
319. Old Colony YMCA
320. Open Doorway of Cape Cod
321. Opportunity House, Inc
322. Oregon Recovery High School
323. Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine
324. Overcoming Addiction Radio
325. Parity Implementation Coalition
326. Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
327. Partners in Prevention/National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Hudson County, Inc.
328. P.E.E.R Wellness Center, Inc.
329. PEER360 Recovery Alliance
330. Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together - (PRO-ACT)
331. Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
332. Pennsylvania Society of Addiction Medicine
333. People Advocating Recovery - PAR
334. Phoenix Houses of New England
335. Phoenix Multisport Boston
336. Pine Street Inn
337. Pivot, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
338. PLR Athens
339. Pretrial Justice Institute
340. Prevention Network OCAA
341. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
342. Putnam Family & Community Services, Inc.
343. RASE Project
344. REAL- Michigan (Recovery, Education, Advocacy & Leadership)
345. Recover Project/Western MA Training
346. Recovery Allies Of West Michigan
347. RecoveryATX
348. Recovery Café Seattle
349. Recovery Community Foundation of Forsyth
350. Recovery Communities of North Carolina
351. Recovery Community of Durham
352. Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
353. Recovery Data Solutions

354. Recovery - Friendly Taos County
355. Recovery Idaho, Inc.
356. Recovery is Happening
357. RecoveryNC (Governors Institute on Substance Abuse)
358. Recovery Point at HER Place
359. Recovery Point of Bluefield
360. Recovery Point of Charleston
361. Recovery Point of Huntington
362. Recovery Point of Parkersburg
363. Recovery Point of West Virginia
364. Recover Wyoming
365. reGROUP
366. Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICAREs)
367. Riverside Community Care
368. Robby's Voice
369. ROCovery Fitness
370. Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence, Inc.
371. Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center
372. Sandy Hook Promise
373. Serenity Sistas
374. ServiceNet
375. Shatterproof
376. SMART Recovery
377. S.O.A.R™ Yoga (Success Over Addiction and Relapse)
378. Solano Recovery Project
379. Solutions Recovery, Inc.
380. Sonoran Prevention Works
381. South Arkansas Regional Health Center, Inc
382. Sound Community Services, Inc.
383. South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc. (SMOC)
384. South Bay Community Services
385. South Carolina Society of Addiction Medicine
386. South Central Human Relations Center
387. South End Community Health Center
388. South Shore Mental Health
389. Southwest Washington Recovery Coalition
390. Spectrum Health Systems, Inc.
391. SpiritWorks Foundation
392. Springfield Recovery Community Center
393. Springs Recovery Connection
394. SSTAR
395. STEP Industries
396. Steppingstone, Incorporated
397. Steve Rummeler Hope Network
398. Student Assistance Services Corp
399. Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of Rhode Island
400. Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc.
401. Tennessee Society of Addiction Medicine
402. Texas Society of Addiction Medicine
403. The Addict's Parents United (TAP United)
404. The Alliance
405. The Ammon Foundation
406. The Bridge Foundation

407. The Bridge Way School
408. The Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice
409. The Chris Atwood Foundation
410. The Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
411. The Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse for Greater New Orleans
412. The DOOR - DeKalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
413. The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
414. The Kennedy Forum
415. The Ohana Center
416. The Peggie & Paul Shevlin Family Foundation
417. The Recovery Channel
418. The Rest of Your Life
419. The Trevor Project
420. The Village Family Services
421. The Village Project, Inc.
422. There Is No Hero In Heroin Foundation
423. Tia Hart Recovery Community Program
424. T.O.R.C.H Inc.
425. Toward Independent Living and Learning, TILL, Inc.
426. Transforming Youth Recovery
427. Treatment Communities of America
428. Trilogy Recovery Community
429. True Recovery, LLC
430. Trust for America's Health
431. Turning Point Center of Central Vermont
432. Two Guys and a Girl
433. UMass Memorial Community Healthlink, Inc.
434. United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
435. Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA)
436. Valley Hope
437. Veterans Inc.
438. Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services
439. Vermont Recovery Network
440. Victory Programs, Inc.
441. Vinfen
442. Virginia Association of Recovery Residences
443. Voice for Adoption
444. Voices of Hope for Cecil County
445. Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
446. Volunteers of America of Massachusetts, Inc.
447. WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
448. Walker, Inc.
449. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
450. Washington Federation of State Employees
451. Washington Recovery Alliance
452. Washington Society of Addiction Medicine
453. Watershed Treatment Programs
454. Wayside Youth & Family Support Network
455. WEConnect
456. Wellspring Recovery Services
457. West Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine
458. WholeLife Recovery Community/ Arizona Recovery Coalition
459. Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)

- 460. Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine
- 461. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery
- 462. Wyoming County CARES
- 463. Yoga of Recovery
- 464. Young Invincibles
- 465. Young People in Recovery
- 466. Young People in Recovery – Los Angeles
- 467. Youth Opportunities Upheld, Inc.
- 468. Youth Villages