

February 21, 2023

The Honorable Grace Napolitano  
1610 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Stewart  
166 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Napolitano and Representative Stewart,

The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) writes to congratulate you both on your bipartisan partnership in co-chairing the Congressional Mental Health Caucus (Caucus) in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. As this new session begins, we applaud your unwavering commitment to addressing mental health and suicide prevention, and your leadership in finding bipartisan policy solutions to help save lives.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in any given year 1 in 5 American adults will experience a mental illness. Meanwhile, 1 in 5 children have at some point experienced a serious mental illness, and over 50% of individuals will be diagnosed with a mental health condition at some point in their life.<sup>i</sup> Suicide is currently the 12<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death overall, and the second for those ages 10-34, with nearly 46,000 people lost to suicide in 2020.<sup>ii</sup> This is a public health issue that does not discriminate. However, we saw suicide rates decrease by 5% from 2018 to 2020, illustrating that comprehensive prevention programs and mental health supports can effectively save lives.<sup>iii</sup> Under your leadership, we believe the Congressional Mental Health Caucus has the power to support and sustain lasting improvements to our country's mental health care systems.

Throughout your time in office, you have each supported bipartisan legislation to address mental health and suicide prevention, championing the needs of thousands of individuals across the country who experience mental health challenges. MHLG stands ready to be a resource for your offices as you continue this critical work.

Under your leadership, the Congressional Mental Health Caucus is well-positioned to support and sustain lasting improvements to our country's mental health care systems and improve suicide prevention efforts. Thank you for prioritizing these issues, and for your bipartisan commitment to destigmatize mental health and support individuals in need.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work  
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP)  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Counseling Association  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Mental Health Counselor Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
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  
Children's Hospital Association  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Crisis Text Line  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice  
Inseparable  
International OCD Foundation  
International Society for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses  
Jewish Federations of North America  
Mental Health America  
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare  
National Association for Rural Mental Health  
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Federation of Families  
National League for Nursing  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
Postpartum Support International  
Sandy Hook Promise  
SMART Recovery  
The Jed Foundation (JED)  
The Kennedy Forum  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The Trevor Project  
2020 Mom

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<sup>i</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/learn/index.htm#:~:text=1%20in%205%20Americans%20will,illness%20in%20a%20given%20year.&text=1%20in%205%20children%2C%20either,a%20seriously%20debilitating%20mental%20illness.&text=1%20in%2025%20Americans%20lives,bipolar%20disorder%2C%20or%20major%20depression.>

<sup>ii</sup><https://afsp.org/suicide-statistics/>

<sup>iii</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db433.htm>