



October 30, 2019

Hon. Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Granger, and Vice Chairman Leahy:

When the House of Representatives and the Senate meet to reconcile the differences between their versions of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020, we respectfully ask you to provide the highest level of funding feasible for budget activities within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Mental Health Programs of Regional and National Significance, especially the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention state and campus-based grant programs, Project AWARE state grants, and other budget activities that seek to improve mental health and reduce suicide among younger Americans.

The House version of the bill, as approved by the Appropriations Committee, provided \$1,656,013,000 for SAMHSA Mental Health programs, including \$41,915,000 for the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention state and campus-based programs (the same as the Fiscal Year 2019 enacted level) and \$84,001,000 for Project AWARE (compared to a Fiscal Year 2019 enacted level of \$71,001,000).

During floor consideration of the bill, we—in our capacity as members of Future Forum, a coalition dedicated to promoting the interests of younger Americans—offered an amendment to increase funding for SAMHSA Mental Health programs by \$2 million, with the additional amount

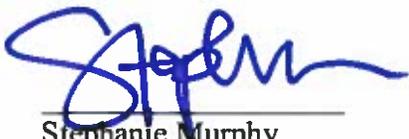
intended for Garrett Lee Smith state and campus-based programs. Likewise, Rep. Cleaver offered an amendment to increase funding for SAMHSA Mental Health programs by \$6.5 million, with the additional amount intended for Garrett Lee Smith programs. Both of these amendments were approved.

The Senate version of the bill, released in the form of a recommendation by the subcommittee chairman, would provide \$1,658,013,000 for SAMHSA Mental Health programs, including \$41,915,000 for the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention state and campus-based programs and \$103,001,000 for Project AWARE.

As the report accompanying the House bill observes, recent data indicates that there has been a significant increase in the number of younger Americans reporting symptoms of major depression, serious psychological distress, and suicidal thoughts and actions. Therefore, we respectfully request that you:

- (1) provide robust top-line funding for SAMHSA Mental Health programs, as close to the Senate-passed funding level of \$1,658,013,000 as possible;
- (2) provide the Senate-supported level of \$103,001,000 for Project AWARE, or as close to it as possible; and
- (3) provide at least several million dollars above \$41,915,000 for the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention state and campus-based programs, in order to reflect the intent of our successful floor amendment and Rep. Cleaver's successful floor amendment.

Sincerely,



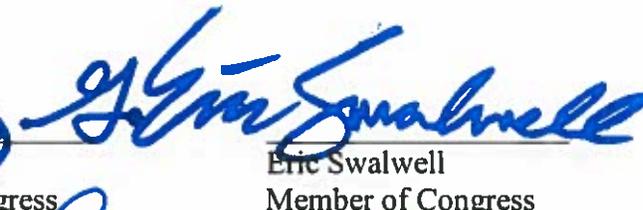
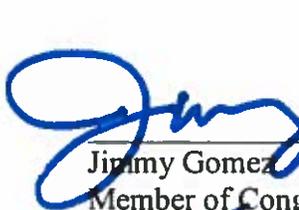
Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

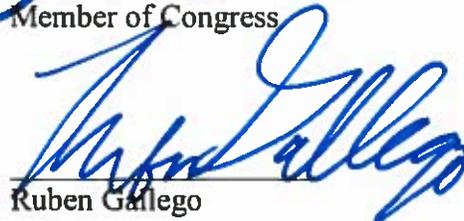


Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

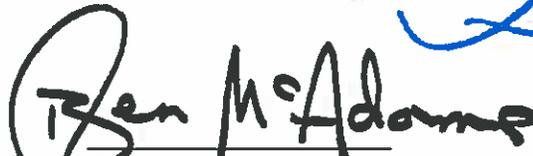


Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Kendra Horn
Member of Congress

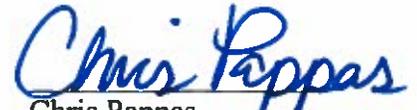

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress


Ben McAdams
Member of Congress


Seth Moulton
Member of Congress


Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress


Joe Neguse
Member of Congress


Chris Pappas
Member of Congress


Katie Porter
Member of Congress


Max Rose
Member of Congress


Darren Soto
Member of Congress


Abigail Spanberger
Member of Congress


Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress


Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress


Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

cc: Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Hon. Roy Blunt, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Hon. Tom Cole, House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Hon. Patty Murray, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies