November 4, 2025

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Scott
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Kennedy
423 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zach Nunn
1410 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Hassan and Scott, and Representatives Kennedy and Nunn,

The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), a coalition of national organizations representing people with mental health and substance use disorders, family members, mental health and addiction providers, advocates, and other stakeholders, is committed to strengthening Americans' access to behavioral health care. We write to express our strong support for the *Occupational Therapy Mental Health Parity Act*, bipartisan legislation expanding access to occupational therapy (OT) services for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders under Medicare.

Although Medicare currently permits coverage of OT services for any individual with a mental health or substance use disorder, many beneficiaries face persistent barriers to accessing this care. Occupational therapy practitioners are often underutilized in behavioral health settings due to limited awareness and inconsistent recognition of their role in addressing these specific health needs. This bill would help address these challenges by directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct outreach and provide education to clarify existing coverage and billing procedures for OT services under Medicare.

Occupational therapy is already delivered in a range of mental and behavioral health settings—including community mental health centers, certified community behavioral health clinics, partial hospitalization programs, assertive community treatment (ACT) teams, shelters, and correctional facilities—where its holistic, functional approach improves daily living skills, psychological well-being, and quality of life. The education and clarification provided by the *Occupational Therapy Mental Health Parity Act* would ensure Medicare beneficiaries have access to OT's person-centered care, while helping address the nation's behavioral health workforce shortage.

We thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation and look forward to working with you to advance it in Congress.

Sincerely,
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Art Therapy Association
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists
American Association on Health and Disability
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Group Psychotherapy Association

American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Nurses Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health & Social Justice
Inseparable
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
The Kennedy Forum
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Mental Health America
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
No Health without Mental Health
Postpartum Support International
REDC Consortium
Sandy Hook Promise
SMART Recovery
Tourette Association of America
Treatment Communities of America