

April 1, 2026

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tina Smith
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Huizenga
2232 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cassidy, Senator Smith, Representative Tonko, and Representative Huizenga:

On behalf of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), we write today in strong support of your legislation, the *Removing Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Limitations Act* (S.4076) and the *Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Equity Act* (H.R. 4619). MHLG is the largest coalition of national organizations representing individuals and families experiencing mental health and substance use challenges, mental health and substance use treatment providers, advocates, and other stakeholders committed to strengthening access to high-quality care. These important bills will end the discriminatory 190-day lifetime limit for inpatient psychiatric care under Medicare, which disproportionately impacts so many seniors in the country who experience mental illness.

Even though Medicare provides health insurance to nearly 70 million Americans, including millions with a mental health condition, Medicare imposes detrimental barriers to care like limiting people to just 190 days of inpatient psychiatric hospital care over their lifetime. This is discrimination, plain and simple. That is why these bills are so vital to ensuring that our seniors receive adequate and appropriate care for their mental health needs for as long as they need it.

For those who experience serious mental illness, it is exceedingly possible to pass the 190-day limit during one's lifetime. The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) estimates that as of 2024, nearly 50,000 vulnerable beneficiaries have reached or are nearing this cap. Once they have exhausted 190 days over their lifetime, MedPAC notes that people may have difficulty accessing care because demand for public facilities outstrips supply and private facilities may be less willing to take these patients who lack coverage. For this reason, in 2025, MedPAC recommended that Congress eliminate Medicare's coverage limits on stays in freestanding inpatient psychiatric facilities, as this important legislation does.

MHLG is grateful for your bipartisan leadership on this critical issue. We are pleased to endorse the *Removing Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Limitations Act* and the *Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Equity Act* and are committed to working together towards its swift passage.

Sincerely,

Active Minds

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists

American Association on Health and Disability

American Counseling Association

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Group Psychotherapy Association

American Nurses Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychoanalytic Association

Anxiety and Depression Association of America

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

Clinical Social Work Association

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)

Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice

Huntington's Disease Society of America

Inseparable

International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses

Legal Action Center

Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance

Mental Health America

National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Association for Behavioral Healthcare

National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH)

National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability

Directors (NACBHDD)

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

National League for Nursing

National Register of Health Service Psychologists

NHMH - No Health without Mental Health

Psychotherapy Action Network (PsiAN)

REDC Consortium

The Kennedy Forum

The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health

Treatment Advocacy Center (TAC)

Vibrant Emotional Health