



**Association for Behavioral
Health and Wellness**

*Advancing benefits and services
in mental health, substance use
and behavior change.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 26, 2017**

Contact: Tiffany A. Huth
Phone: 202.487.8057
Email: Huth@abhw.org

ABHW Applauds Senators Manchin and Capito's "Legacy Act" in Honor of Jessie Grubb

Washington, DC (September 26, 2017) – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), the national voice for payers that manage behavioral health insurance benefits for over 175 million people, today issued the following statement in response to the introduction of the bipartisan Protecting Jessica Grubb's Legacy Act, (The Legacy Act), S. 1850, by Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

The following statement is attributed to Pamela Greenberg, MPP, President and CEO, Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness.

“The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness applauds Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito for their leadership on this legislation and for honoring the life of Jessica Grubb. Now, more than ever, is the time to ensure patients receive safe, effective, high quality substance use treatment. Doctors must have appropriate access to a patient's complete medical record, including addiction records, to ensure that providers and organizations involved in a patient's medical and behavioral health care have all the information necessary to treat and keep our most vulnerable safe.

“We urge Congressional leaders to support and take action on this bill as quickly as possible. This legislation helps ensure that doctors, hospitals, insurers, pharmacists, and others on the front line caring for patients suffering from opioid and other substance use disorders have the health information needed to provide evidence based care. This bill also helps to prevent doctors from prescribing opioids for an individual that they do not know has a substance use disorder.”

###

ABHW is an association of the nation's leading behavioral health and wellness companies. These companies provide an array of services related to mental health, substance use disorders, employee assistance, disease management, and other health and wellness programs to over 175 million people in both the public and private sectors. ABHW and its member companies use their behavioral health expertise to improve health care outcomes for individuals and families across the health care spectrum. Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, Anthem, Beacon Health Options, Centene Corporation, Cigna, Humana Behavioral Health, New Directions Behavioral Health, Optum, and PerformCare.