



**Association for Behavioral
Health and Wellness**

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2017**

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ABHW Applauds Congressman Murphy's Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen Addiction Treatment

Washington, DC (July 28, 2017) – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), an association of the nation's leading behavioral health and wellness companies serving over 170 million people, today issued the following statement in response to the introduction of the bipartisan Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act, "OPPS Act" of 2017, H.R. 3545, by Congressmen Tim Murphy, PhD. (R-PA) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR).

The following statement is attributed to Pamela Greenberg, MPP, ABHW, President and CEO.

"Now, more than ever, legislative action is necessary to bring the appropriate sharing of substance use records into the 21st century. Appropriate access to a patient's complete medical record, including addiction records, ensures that providers and organizations involved in a patient's medical and behavioral health care have all the information necessary to provide safe, effective, high quality treatment and care.

"We urge Congressional leaders to support and take action on this bill as quickly as possible to 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 and eradicate the heroin and prescription drug abuse consuming our country."

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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 170 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.