



Advancing Health Care Policy
for Mental Health and Addiction

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ABHW Applauds Overwhelming Bipartisan Passage of H.R. 6082
The Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act

Washington, DC (June 20, 2018) – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), the national voice for payers that manage behavioral health insurance benefits for over 175 million people, and chair of the Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2, responds to the U.S. House of Representatives bipartisan passage of H.R. 6082, the Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act (OPPS Act), which will align 42 CFR Part 2 (Part 2) with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) for the purposes of health care treatment, payment, and operations.

The bill passed with broad bipartisan support of 357-57 on the House floor late this afternoon.

As the founding member of the Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2, ABHW spearheaded the conversation around the outdated law, the barriers it creates to providing evidence-based coordinated care, and the need to modernize Part 2 to have parity in the treatment of substance use disorder, mental health, and medical records.

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

“We are pleased that members of the U.S. House of Representatives voted in a bipartisan manner today to pass H.R. 6082, the Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act. We thank Congressmen Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) for their diligent efforts to move this legislation through Congress.

“It is encouraging that Members of Congress recognize the importance of aligning the treatment of substance use disorder (SUD) records with how all other medical and behavioral health records are managed. This bill will facilitate integrated care for individuals with an opioid or other substance use disorder while maintaining, and in fact enhancing, the protections that currently exist for SUD records.

“ABHW members have long advocated for changes to the existing 42 CFR Part 2 regulations so that care can be coordinated, and providers can have appropriate access to all of a patient’s medical record. Clinicians need access to a patient’s full medical history, including substance use disorder records, to assess risks and adequately care for a patient. Our members contend that Part 2 is one of the biggest – if not the biggest – barrier to fighting the opioid crisis.”

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[ABHW](#) is the leading health plan association working to improve access and quality of care for mental health and substance use disorders. ABHW’s members include national and regional health plans who care for more than 175 million people. Together we work to reduce stigma and advance federal policy on mental health and addiction care. Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, Anthem, Beacon Health Options, Centene Corporation, Cigna, New Directions Behavioral Health, Optum, and PerformCare.