



Association for Behavioral
Health and Wellness

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Industry Groups Urge Senate HELP Committee to include Protections in Opioid Package

Washington, DC (April 11, 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 the Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2 (Partnership), a coalition of over 40 health care organizations committed to aligning 42 CFR Part 2 with HIPAA, today submitted comment letters to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) urging the Committee to include the Protecting Jessica Grubb’s Legacy Act, S. 1850, in its Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018.

Following this morning’s hearing on the opioid epidemic in which the Committee reviewed more than two dozen bipartisan proposals included in the draft opioid legislation released last week, ABHW and the Partnership remarked that S. 1850 aligns Part 2 with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) for the purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations (TPO) and strengthens protections against the use of substance use disorder records in criminal proceedings.

Both ABHW and the Partnership support the harmonization of Part 2 with HIPAA for TPO in order to increase care coordination and integration among treating providers and other entities in communities across the nation in order to provide safe coordinated patient care.

In its letter, ABHW also stated their support for provisions in the draft opioid legislation that are vital in the fight to alleviate this crisis, including enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs), increased access to medication assisted treatment (MAT), and best practices for recovery housing.

Read ABHW comment letter: [HERE](#)

Read Partnership comment letter: [HERE](#)

Senate HELP Committee: [The Opioid Crisis Response Act 2018](#)

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Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2: www.helpendopioidcrisis.org/

[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.