



Legislation to Improve Access to Children's Behavioral Health Care 119th Congress

H.R. 1735/S. 779, *Early Action and Responsiveness Lifts Youth (EARLY) Minds Act*

This bipartisan legislation would provide early intervention and prevention services to children and adults struggling with mental health challenges. It would empower states by allowing them to allocate up to 5% of their Mental Health Block Grant for prevention and early intervention activities.

Please cosponsor and advance H.R. 1735/S. 779, *Early Action and Responsiveness Lifts Youth (EARLY) Minds Act*, as introduced by Reps. August Pfluger (R-TX), Kathy Castor (D-FL), John Joyce, MD (R-PA), and Kim Schrier, MD (D-WA) and Sens. Alex Padilla (D-CA), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Tim Kaine (D-VA), and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK).

H.R. 2223, *Building Capacity for Care Act*

The legislation would help solve the facility shortage issue by creating grants, loans, and loan guarantees to fund the construction, renovation, or purchase of behavioral health facilities that provide short-term inpatient care, partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient care, and/or crisis stabilization. It prioritizes areas with the most need, preference for grant funding would go to facilities that are located in a mental health provider shortage area, or in areas that are consistently above the national average for suicide or overdose deaths in the last three years.

Please cosponsor H.R. 2223, *Building Capacity for Care Act*, introduced by Reps. Andrea Salinas (D-OR) and Becca Balint (D-VT). AACAP urges a companion bill for H.R. 2223 to be introduced in the Senate.

H.R. 1585/S. 709, *Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act*

This bipartisan legislation would reauthorize and modify the Conrad 30 program, which allows foreign doctors studying in the U.S. to obtain a visa following their medical residency if they practice in medically underserved area for at least three years.

Please cosponsor and advance H.R. 1585/S. 709, *Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act*, as introduced by Reps. David Valadao (R-CA), Don Bacon (R-NE), Brad Schneider (D-IL), and Sylvia Garcia (D-TX) and Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Susan Collins (R-ME), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), and Thom Tillis (R-NC).

H.R. 2078/S. 942, *Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act*

This bipartisan legislation would provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers who are in a medical or dental internship or residency program.

Please cosponsor and advance H.R. 2078/S. 942, *Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act*, as introduced by Reps. Brian Babin, DDS (R-TX) and Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA) and Sens. Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and John Boozman (R-AR).

Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act

This legislation would strengthen the mental health workforce by incentivizing mental health professionals, including child and adolescent psychiatrists to practice in underserved areas by offering them student loan forgiveness in return.

AACAP urges House and Senate reintroduction and passage of the *Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act* in the 119th Congress.

Telemental Health Care Access Act

This legislation would remove barriers to high-quality, virtual mental and behavioral health care for Medicare beneficiaries. It removes the requirement that doctors see Medicare beneficiaries in-person within six-months of being treated virtually for mental and behavioral health concerns. Eliminating this arbitrary in-person requirement will ensure that patients can fully leverage telehealth to get care they need from home.

AACAP urges House and Senate reintroduction and passage of the *Telemental Health Care Access Act* in the 119th Congress.