

American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

June 30, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Chairmen Pallone, Neal, and Scott:

Congratulations on House passage of the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act,” H.R. 1425. On behalf of the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), we applaud your leadership in developing and advancing this very important new bill that would make health insurance coverage more affordable and available to greater numbers of Americans, especially our most vulnerable and at-risk children, adolescents, and their families.

AACAP has long supported the Affordable Care Act (ACA), particularly the law’s pre-existing condition coverage, as well as Medicaid expansion, and the CHIP program. As you know, your bill would make important changes and reverse the Trump Administration’s expansion of so-called “junk health insurance plans” that do not provide adequate coverage for essential medical treatments and pharmaceuticals, and that are allowed to discriminate against patients with pre-existing medical conditions. Your bill also would curtail state waivers that undermine

protections for people with pre-existing conditions and weaken standards for essential health benefits, including mental health and substance use disorder treatment. Such coverage is indispensable for children and adolescents with mental health conditions.

We also are greatly heartened that H.R. 1425 would permanently fund the CHIP program for 2024 and beyond, as well as strongly encourage hold-out states to expand Medicaid by renewing the ACA's original enhanced FMAP for those expanding Medicaid, while progressively reducing these administrative payments for those states who continue to refuse.

Together, we look forward to working with you to champion the needed reforms of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act."

AACAP is the professional home to America's child and adolescent psychiatrists. Our mission includes promoting the healthy development of children, adolescents, and families. Please contact Ronald Szabat, JD, LLM, our Director of Government Affairs and Clinical Practice, for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabrielle A. Carlson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Gabrielle A. Carlson, MD
President

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