

June 25, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chair
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady:

The undersigned national organizations are writing to express our strong support for the expansion of Medicare telehealth benefits, as included in section 103 of your bipartisan Beneficiary Education Tools Telehealth Extender Reauthorization (BETTER) Act of 2019 (H.R. 3417). We greatly appreciate the Committee's commitment to advancing improvements to the Medicare program to aid patients in need of mental health care.

As you may know, mental disorders, as reported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), are at the top of the diagnoses for Medicare beneficiaries receiving telehealth services in 2016. However, current law restrictions prohibiting the receipt of telehealth services in the home and limiting coverage to specific geographic areas hamper the accessibility of effective mental health services to treat Medicare beneficiaries. We are very pleased that H.R. 3417 removes these barriers and allows Medicare patients to access psychotherapy services through telehealth no matter where they live and in their own homes.

We also like to recognize the valued leadership of Representatives Suzan DelBene and Tom Reed in spearheading section 103. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to pass this important bill this year.

Sincerely,

American Art Therapy Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Psychological Association
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
International OCD Foundation
The Jewish Federations of North America
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Eating Disorders Association
National Register of Health Service Psychologists
Treatment Communities of America