

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leaders Schumer and Pelosi:

The undersigned organizations appreciate the effort to reduce the burden that health care costs place on taxpayers. To reach the stated goal of large savings in the coming years, the undersigned urge Congress to take a global view of how these savings can be achieved. Whenever appropriate, Congress should think beyond what can be formally scored under the budget rules of Congress, and consider how policy options could save taxpayer dollars by reducing spending across all areas of government, improving the lives of the American people whether or not the policies count in federal budget scoring.

Research demonstrates that early intervention and effective health care reduces government spending in areas beyond just the federal health care budget. Early intervention and effective health care reduces federal, state, and local spending on criminal justice, child welfare, housing, special education, and many other sectors, while increasing tax revenues from greater worker productivity. While these savings cannot be formally scored as part of the current budget process, they should be considered and accounted for in reaching the overall savings goal, since they are ultimately what matters to taxpayers. Taxpayers are not concerned with which budgets money is saved from – they care about getting real value for their tax dollars. The undersigned urge Congress to seek health care reforms that produce the best overall returns on investment and maximize savings across public sectors, whether or not these savings would be counted in the currently limited Congressional budget scoring process.

The undersigned appreciate your consideration of this important issue and look forward to working with you in the 115th Congress.

Sincerely,

Mental Health America
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Child and Family Policy Center
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Social Workers
National Register of Health Service Psychologists