



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
H-232
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
H-204
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

As you begin consideration of a fourth legislative package to alleviate the burden of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“the coronavirus” or COVID-19) on our country, we ask that you include H.R. 3165, *the Mental Health Parity Compliance Act*. This pandemic exposes weaknesses in our current health system, including the dire need for mental health services. As this pandemic separates us from our neighbors, isolates individuals in their homes, devastates families and communities, and traumatizes frontline healthcare providers, Congress has a responsibility to support access to mental health services now more than ever before.

As workers are waiting for the economic support from Congress and the Executive Branch, anxiety increases about their health, families, and finances. Mental health care is a key way to help those struggling with the consequences of this pandemic. We cannot wait to act to reduce costs and expand access to mental health care; passing the *Mental Health Parity Compliance Act* is central to these goals.

The *Mental Health Parity Compliance Act* would ensure that health insurance plans provide equal coverage for mental and physical health. In 2008, Congress passed the *Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act* to mandate that coverage for mental health care was no more restrictive than insurance coverage for other health care. A decade after mental health parity became the law of the land, the evidence is clear: health insurance plans still fail to adequately provide comparable mental health coverage. As a result, patients lack the mental health services they need, even if they have insurance.

Our legislation would close these regulatory gaps to increase mental health access and coverage that Americans were promised for over a decade. Specifically, the bipartisan *Mental Health Parity Compliance Act* would enable the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Labor to analyze consumer complaints to take action and would require that insurers take a larger role in ensuring that their plans are compliant with the current parity law. As we continue to improve mental health policies in Congress, this bill requires the Secretaries to communicate specific actions that insurance companies must take to remain in compliance, as well as what they must do if they are out of compliance. Identical

legislation has been passed in both red and blue states across the country because it creates a nonpartisan path forward to increasing access to mental health care.

We must support the mental health and financial security of our communities, and the *Mental Health Parity and Compliance Act* will help Americans receive the mental health care that they are owed.

Best,

KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress

GUS BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress

TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress

PETER J. VISCLOSKEY
Member of Congress

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
Member of Congress

JAMIE RASKIN
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BRIAN FITZPATRICK
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LAUREN UNDERWOOD
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DAVID TRONE
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LUCY McBATH
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PRAMILA JAYAPAL
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