

02/08/2021

Hi REDC Consortium Members,

We are less than 1 week away from **REDC Consortium's Annual Advocacy Day!**

- Remember to **utilize your social media toolkit on Wednesday, February 10** (attached) and share with your colleagues to increase amplification of the SERVE Act!

### **SERVE Act Congressional Briefing, Thursday, February 25**

- Save the date from 12:30 - 1:30 pm EST for a Congressional briefing related to the SERVE Act and military mental health
- More details to come in next week's policy update!

### **REDC Member Telehealth Utilization Survey, Closes February 12**

- Friendly reminder to fill out a brief survey on telehealth utilization to assist in our federal policy efforts on the importance of telehealth.
- The survey can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TYPQKCB>

### **I. SERVE Act**

Senate SERVE Act was introduced yesterday afternoon, by Sens. Shaheen (D-NH), Tillis (R-NC), Capito (R-WV) and Hirono (D-HI).

#### **Senate SERVE Act, Bill # S. 194:**

- Bill Text can be found here: [S.194 - 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide treatment for eating disorders for dependents of members of the uniformed services. | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)
- Infographic that we made is attached
- EDC put out a press release on it which can be [found here](#)
- Finally, some local NC media picked up the bill, which can be found here: [Senator Tillis reintroduces bill to support servicemembers & military families with coverage for eating disorder treatments | WAVY.com](#)

#### **House SERVE Act:**

- Still awaiting draft from the Office of Legislative Counsel- they are backed up
- May be some shuffling of R co-lead due to larger politics, stay tuned!

#### **Telehealth**

## TREAT Act Reintroduced

- The TREAT Act was reintroduced this week by Sens. Murphy (D-CT) and Blunt (R-MO), and also has a House companion bill led by Reps. Latta (R-OH) and Dingell (D-MI).
- The REDC is leading a support letter for this legislation on behalf of the Mental Health Liaison Group and will be updated to reflect the House bill too.
  - Bill summary:
    - Allows health care practitioners temporary licensing reciprocity during a national emergency, by eliminating certain state medical licensing restrictions
    - Apply the licensure reciprocity for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, followed by a 180-day phase out period.

## Telehealth Working Group

- The REDC Consortium is part of the Mental Health Liaison Group Telehealth Working Group
- The working group is holding meetings with House, Senate and Committee offices who are leaders in the telehealth space to better understand Congress' direction on telehealth this Congress and how we can inform their policy efforts
  - Meetings held so far:
    - Ways & Means Committee majority
    - Energy & Commerce Committee majority
    - Rep. Matsui (D-CA)
    - Rep. Welch (D-VT)
  - Our team took a meeting with W&M Health Subcmte Chairman Doggett (D-TX) and in communications with W&M Ranking Member Brady (R-TX) regarding the issues with BCBS TX telehealth coverage
  - REDC Consortium is leading a letter to Governor Abbott & Insurance Commissioner Sullivan on the importance of maintaining coverage for telehealth services at the IOP and PHP levels
    - The letter will be circulated among other MH/SUD entities in the state for co-signing
  - Last, the REDC Consortium is leading a thank you letter on behalf of the telehealth working to HHS Acting Secretary Cochran on his recent letter to Governors regarding the PHE declaration will likely remain in place through the entirety of 2021.

## ACA Watch

- With the Biden Administration reopening ACA Open Enrollment February 15 - May 15, a couple other state-run marketplaces are following suit.
  - Pennsylvania and New Jersey will be reopening their state-based marketplaces during the same window
- Sen. Warner (D-VA) Introduces the Health Care Improvement Act

- The bill mirrors the Biden Administration's proposal include in the American Rescue Plan that would:
  - Eliminate the 400% poverty threshold (known as the subsidy cliff), so that no one pays more than 8.5% of income toward their premium.
  - Expands subsidies for people earning less than 400% of the federal poverty line.
  - Allow insurers to offer coverage across state boundaries.
  - Allocate \$10 billion annually to a new innovation fund that states could use to support health care affordability in their state.
  - Rescind the Trump administration's short-term, limited duration insurance rule.
  - Establishes a public option limited to consumers eligible for ACA exchange coverage and gives HHS discretion on how to design the public option with certain guardrails.
  - Several provisions to improve Medicaid and incentivize states to expand their program.

Wishing each of you a great weekend,

Allison & the Center Road Solutions Team