

July 14, 2022

The Honorable Jacky Rosen  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rosen and Senator Cassidy:

The undersigned national organizations in the mental and behavioral health community write to express our strong support for the *Expanding Access to Mental Health Training Act* (S.4461). This legislation will reauthorize and expand the Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT) program, an important grant program administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration.

As you know, the MHAT program provides grant funding to help train individuals to respond to mental health crises and to support those living with mental health disorders. It funds programs which help participants recognize the signs and symptoms of mental disorders and to connect those with mental health disorders to school or community-based mental health agencies.

The MHAT program also provides funding to train emergency services personnel, Veterans, law enforcement officers, and others to de-escalate mental health crises. The program also helps raise awareness of existing resources that are available for individuals living with a mental health disorder.

The *Expanding Access to Mental Health Training Act* will reauthorize and extend the MHAT program, authorizing additional funding for the program and extending its authorization through fiscal year 2027. This legislation will expand the scope of the MHAT program to include suicide intervention and prevention training as an eligible use of grant funding.

By improving and reauthorizing the MHAT program, S.4461 will help countless Americans impacted by mental and behavioral health disorders. We respectfully urge its swift passage, and we thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to this important issue.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom

American Academy of Nurse Anesthesiology

American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare

American Association on Health and Disability

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work

American Counseling Association

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Group Psychotherapy Association

American Mental Health Counselors Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Clinical Social Work Association  
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP)  
Crisis Text Line  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action  
Education Development Center  
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice  
International Society for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses  
The Kennedy Forum  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
Mental Health America  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Council for Mental Wellbeing  
National Eating Disorders Association  
National Federation of Families  
National League for Nursing  
National Register of Health Service Psychologists  
Psychotherapy Action Network (PsiAN)  
REDC  
The Trevor Project  
Trust for America's Health