**MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION (116TH CONGRESS)**

Updated: 10/09/19

** = New bills since last update

**Barragan, Nanette Diaz (D-CA)**

HR 1336, Mental Health Care for Children Inhumanely Separated from Parents by the Federal Government Act: To require the Federal Government to provide mental health services to each child who has been separated from one or more parent as a result of implementation of the Trump Administration’s zero tolerance policy at the United States border, and for other purposes.

**Bera, Ami (D-CA)**

HR 1646, HERO Act: To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of mental health issues among public safety officers, and for other purposes.

**Bergman, Jack (R-MI)**

HR 3495, Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act: To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.

**Beyer, Don (D-VA) – MH Caucus Member**

**HR 4309, Barriers to Suicide Act:** To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to facilitate the installation, on bridges, of evidence-based suicide deterrents, including suicide prevention nets and barriers, and for other purposes.

**Brindisi, Anthony (D-NY)**

**HR 2333, Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act:** To require the Government Accountability Office to report on the responsibilities, workload, training, and vacancy rates of suicide prevention coordinators at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

HR 2629, Care And Readiness Enhancement for Reservists Act: To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

**Brownley, Julia (D-CA)**

**HR 2798, Building Supportive Networks for Women Veterans Act:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces.

**HR 4271, Gun Suicide Prevention Act:** To prohibit the sale of a firearm unless it carries a warning label that provides the number of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

**Buchanan, Vern (R-FL)**

**HR 100, Veteran Overmedication and Suicide Prevention Act:** To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an independent review of the deaths of certain veterans by suicide, and for other purposes.

**Cardenas, Tony (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member**

**HR 2300, Eliminating Debtor’s Prison for Kids Act:** To establish a grant to provide mental health services and behavioral health services to at-risk youth, and for other purposes.
Chu, Judy (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 884, Medicare Mental Health Access Act: To expand the definition of “physician,” for purposes of the Medicare program, to include a clinical psychologist with respect to the furnishing of qualified psychologist services.

HR 2826, Stop Mental Health Stigma in Our Communities Act: To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategies to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander population.

HR 2958, Increasing Access to Mental Health in Schools Act: To increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers by low-income local educational agencies.

Clark, Katherine (D-MA) – MH Caucus Member

**HR 4381, Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act: To effectively staff the public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers.

Cleaver, Emanuel (D-MO) – MH Caucus Member

HR 3778, Cady Housh and Gemesha Thomas Student Suicide Prevention Act: To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize certain grants (for youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies) to be used for school personnel in elementary and secondary schools and students in secondary schools to receive student suicide awareness and prevention training, and for other purposes.

Correa, Luis (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 712, VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act: To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a clinical trial of the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of adults with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

HR 3192, Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act: To require colleges and universities to provide the contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; Crisis Text Line; and a campus mental health center, if applicable, on student identification cards. For colleges and universities that do not provide identification cards to their students, schools must ensure that the information is available on their website.

Cummings, Elijah (D-MD)

HR 2569, Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency Act: To provide emergency assistance to States, territories, Tribal nations, and local areas affected by the opioid epidemic and to make financial assistance available to States, territories, Tribal nations, local areas, and public or private nonprofit entities to provide for the development, organization, coordination, and operation of more effective and cost efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with substance use disorder and their families.

DelBene, Suzan (D-WA)

HR 1301, Mental Health Telemedicine Expansion Act: To exclude certain mental health telehealth services from specified requirements under Medicare, including originating site requirements.

DeSaulnier, Mark (D-Ca) – MH Caucus Member

**HR 4353, Suicide Prevention Assistance Act: To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in primary care offices, and for other purposes.
**Dingell, Debbie (D-MI) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 973, Violence Against Women Health Act: To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for additional programs funded by grants to strengthen the healthcare system’s response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and for other purposes.

**Fitzpatrick, Brian (R-PA) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 4025, Mental Health in Schools Excellence Program Act: To establish the Mental Health in Schools Excellence Program to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers, and for other purposes.

**Foster, Bill (D-IL) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 1302, Expanding Opportunities for Recovery Act: To require the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to award grants to expand access to clinically appropriate services for opioid abuse or addiction. States must use these grants to provide up to 60 consecutive days of services to individuals who otherwise would not have access to substance abuse services.

**Gibbs, Bob (R-OH)**

**HR 4111, Combating Meth and Cocaine Act:** To authorize State opioid response grants, and for other purposes.

**Grijalva, Raul (D-AZ) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 1191, Native American Suicide Prevention Act: To amend section 520E of the Public Health Service Act to require States and their designees receiving grants for development and implementation of statewide suicide early intervention and prevention strategies to collaborate with each Federally recognized Indian tribe, tribal organization, urban Indian organization, and Native Hawaiian health care system in the State.

**Harder, Josh (D-CA)**

HR 2696, Supporting the Health and Safety of Law Enforcement Act: To create a pilot program to promote coordination between community mental health centers and law enforcement agencies. Specifically, it directs the Department of Justice to award grants for community mental health centers to place social workers with law enforcement agencies with the purpose of placement in facilitate coordination on law enforcement cases with an underlying mental health component.

**Hastings, Alcee L. (D-FL)**

HR 1345, Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act: To allow otherwise eligible individuals who are in custody pending charges to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicare, Medicaid, or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) benefits with SSI benefits made payable to such an individual that (1) must be withheld until the individual is no longer in custody; and (2) if the individual dies while in custody, shall be paid to the individual’s estate.

HR 1564, Outpatient Mental Health Modernization Act: To include nutritional planning, meals, and transportation, as well as vocational and employment counseling services, as covered partial-hospitalization services under Medicare. The Department of Health and Human Services shall convene a Behavioral Health Advisory Committee to address specified issues, including discrimination against the chronically mentally ill, elderly, and veterans in relation to treatment for mental illness.

**Horn, Kendra (D-OK) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 2698, The Law Enforcement Training for Mental Health Crisis Response Act: To provide grants to State, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies to obtain behavioral health crisis response training for law enforcement officers.
**Jackson Lee, Sheila (D-TX)**

**HR 4290**, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate a week as "Battle Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, and for other purposes.

**Katko, John (R-NY) – MH Caucus Co-Chair**

HR 743, Securing Our Children Act: To establish the Presidential Commission on Securing Our Nation’s Children. The commission must review and develop recommendations regarding the safety and security of children in the United States.

HR 744, Protecting Our Communities and Rights Act: To provide States with funding to establish new tools to prevent suicide and violence, and for other purposes.

HR 2431, Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act: To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to relieve workforce shortages, and for other purposes.

**HR 4564, Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act:** The bill would:
- Increases authorized funding for the Suicide Prevention Lifeline from $12 million to $50 million;
- Requires HHS to develop and implement a plan to increase quality assurance, eliminate call wait times, implement evidence-based practices like follow-up, ensure resources are available to friends and family of those in crisis, create guidelines to carry out periodic testing of the Lifeline;
- Requires increased coordination and data sharing between the Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the CDC;
- Creates a pilot program to research and employ innovative technologies for suicide prevention;
- Requires a study and report to Congress from both HHS and GAO on the plan implemented by HHS to reform the Lifeline as well as other recommendations for improvement to the Lifeline’s operations

**Kennedy, Joseph (D-MA)**

HR 1920, Medicaid Bump Act: To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a higher Federal matching rate for increased expenditures under Medicaid for mental and behavioral health services, and for other purposes.

HR 2874, Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act: To strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits.

**Kuster, Ann (D-NH) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 817, Combating the Heroin Epidemic through Forensic Drug Testing Act: To authorize the Bureau of Justice Assistance to award state grants to address the use, sale, and distribution of heroin, fentanyl, and associated synthetic drugs.

HR 2922, Respond Now Act: To create a $25 billion Opioid Epidemic Response Fund to provide $5 billion annually over five years targeted to numerous key activities involving such agencies as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and Health Resources & Services Administration.

**HR 4141, Humane Correctional Health Care Act:** To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a consistent standard of health care to the incarcerated, and for other purposes.

**Lamb, Conor (D-PA)**

HR 2359, Whole Veteran Act: To require the Department of Veterans Affairs to report on the implementation of its whole health approach to health care. The report must include an analysis of the accessibility and availability of a variety of services including hypnosis and acupuncture. The whole health model is a holistic approach that looks at the many areas of life that may affect health in order to make a health plan suited for each individual based on his or her health goals.
Lawrence, Brenda (D-MI)

**HR 4420, Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act:** To amend subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that mental health screenings and assessments are provided to children and youth upon entry into foster care.

Lee, Barbra (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1533, Improving Access to Mental Health Act: To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program.

Loebsack, Dave (D-IA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 2997, Sgt. Brandon Ketchum Never Again Act: To require that when a veteran enrolled in the VA health care system requests at a VA Medical Center to be admitted for in-patient psychiatric care, the VA must provide that care for the veteran in the psychiatric ward of that Medical Center. If there are not enough beds or providers at that location, the VA must find care for the veteran at a non-VA facility. The bill would not prevent admissions as they current operate, but rather would supplement existing policy.

Matsui, Doris (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1767, Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act: To extend Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic’s activities for an additional two years and expand the program to 11 states that applied but were excluded from participation by the eight-state limit in current law. CCBHCs provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals.

**HR 4131, Improving Access to Remote Behavioral Health Treatment Act:** To amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify the eligibility of certain community mental health centers to register for purposes of the practice of telemedicine, and for other purposes.

McKinley, David (R-WV)

**HR 3927, PDMPs Help Patients Act:** To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a pilot program to test the feasibility and outcomes of integrating a substance use disorder and behavioral health treatment locator tool into the prescription drug monitoring programs of 5 eligible States.

Morelle, Joe (D-NY)

HR 2184, Reach Every Veteran in Crisis Act: To improve oversight and evaluation of the mental health and suicide prevention media outreach campaigns of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Napolitano, Grace F. (D-CA) – MH Caucus Co-Chair

HR 1109, Mental Health Services for Students Act: To amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

HRes 337, Expressing support for the designation of May 2019 as "Mental Health Awareness Month".

**HR 4543, Reducing Mental Health Stigma in the Hispanic Community Act:** To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategy to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Hispanic and Latino population, and for other purposes.

Norcross, Donald (D-NJ) - MH Caucus Member

HR 2848, The Parity Enforcement Act: To amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits, and for other purposes.
Peters, Scott (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 2599, Suicide and Threat Assessment Nationally Dedicated to Universal Prevention Act: To amend the Public Health Service Act to require State educational agencies and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy and school threat assessment team policy, and for other purposes.

HRes 455, Expressing support for the designation of the month of June 2019 as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month" and June 27, 2019, as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day".

Phillips, Dean (D-MN)

HR 2503, Supporting Family Mental Health in CAPTA Act: To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to increase support for mental health.

Porter, Katie (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 3165, Mental Health Parity Compliance Act: The parity compliance legislation seeks to improve compliance on the part of health plans and insurers. This legislation does the following:
- Requires health plans and insurers to perform analyses of how they design and apply their managed care practices to determine if this is done in a parity-compliant fashion
- Requires the Secretaries to request these analyses if there have been complaints against a particular health plan or insurer
- Requires the Secretaries to request these analyses at random from at least 50 health plans and insurers
- Requires the Secretaries to specify to health plans and insurers what they must do to come into compliance if found out of compliance
- Requires the Secretaries to report back to Congress what they found

Quigley, Mike (D-IL)

HR 3735, Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act: To require the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide information on suicide rates in law enforcement, and for other purposes.

Reschenthaler, Guy (R-PA) – MH Caucus Member

**HR 2368, Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act: To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

Roe, David (R-TN)

HR 1395, Youth Mental Health Services Act: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve mental health services for students, and for other purposes.

HR 1812, Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act: To amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to certain individuals.

Rose, Max (D-NY) – MH Caucus Member

HR 2340, FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act: To require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to notify Congress following a suicide or attempted suicide of a veteran that occurs in a VA facility. Specifically, the VA must provide the name and location of the facility and also specific information regarding the veteran who committed or attempted suicide. The VA is required to include in each notification (1) guidance to deter the sensationalism of suicide, (2) guidance for identifying warning signs exhibited by veterans at risk of suicide, and (3) information on the resources available from the VA to veterans at risk of suicide.
Ruiz, Raul (D-CA)

HR 2519, Improving Mental Health Access from the Emergency Department Act: To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to award grants to implement innovative approaches to securing prompt access to appropriate follow-on care for individuals who experience an acute mental health episode and present for care in an emergency department, and for other purposes.

Rush, Bobby (D-IL)

**HR 4404, Depression Side Effect Labeling Awareness Act:** To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require that the label of drugs with an increased risk of suicide or depression present such increased risk prominently, and for other purposes.

Rutherford, John (R-FL) – MH Caucus Member

HR 3103, PAWS Act: To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a grant program under which the Secretary shall make grants to private entities for the provision of service dogs to eligible veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

Ryan, Tim (D-OH) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1997, Veteran Posttraumatic Growth Act: To require the Secretary to conduct a pilot program to study the effectiveness and benefits of non-profit posttraumatic growth programs. The pilot will determine the outcomes of such programs in contrast to traditional models of mental health care, the possible integration of such non-profit programs into the mental health care programs provided by the Secretary, and the budgetary impacts of such integration.

**HR 4221, Teacher Health and Wellness Act:** To require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to carry out a study to add to the scientific knowledge on reducing teacher stress and increasing teacher retention and well-being, and for other purposes.

Schneider, Brad (D-IL)

HR 2439, Opioid Workforce Act: To increase the number of residency positions eligible for graduate medical education payments under Medicare for hospitals that have addiction or pain management programs, with an aggregate increase of 1,000 positions over a five-year period.

Smucker, Lloyd (R-PA)

HR 1801, Warrior Wellness Act: To direct the Secretary of Defense to develop a strategy to recruit and retain mental health providers, to direct the Secretaries of the military departments to develop medication monitoring programs, and for other purposes.

Stewart, Chris (R-UT) – MH Caucus Member

**HR 4194, National Suicide Hotline Designation Act:** To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to designate 9–8–8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, and for other purposes.
Stivers, Steve (R-OH) – MH Caucus Member

HR 3147, Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) Act: To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide service dogs to veterans with mental illnesses who do not have mobility impairments.

**HR 4305, Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide service dogs to veterans with mental illnesses who do not have mobility impairments.

Thompson, Mike (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 945, Mental Health Access Improvement Act: To provide for coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under Medicare. It also excludes such services from the skilled nursing facility prospective payment system, and authorizes marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors to develop discharge plans for post-hospital services.

Tonko, Paul (D-NY) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1329, Medicaid Reentry Act: To allow Medicaid payment for medical services furnished to an incarcerated individual during the 30-day period preceding the individual's release.

HR 2482, Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act: To amend section 303(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)) to eliminate the separate registration requirement for dispensing narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, or V (such as buprenorphine) for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes.

Trone, David (D-MD) – MH Caucus Member

HR 3489, Higher Education Mental Health Act: To authorize the Secretary of Education to establish an Advisory Commission on Serving and Supporting Students with Mental Health Disabilities in Institutions of Higher Education, and for other purposes.

Turner, Michael (R-OH)

HR 2511, The Reforming and Expanding Access to Treatment Act: To allow federal payment for qualified substance use disorder services, such as medication or behavioral treatment administered, furnished to inmates in public institutions under state Medicaid programs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration shall not establish, maintain, or implement any policy that restricts its statutorily authorized provision or support of substance abuse treatment for incarcerated individuals.

Underwood, Lauren (D-IL)

HR 2372, Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act: To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services.

**HR 4282, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a training session and a counseling session in suicide prevention and lethal means tailored to veterans who served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

Walden, Greg (R-OR)

HR 3074, Continuing Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Care Act: To amend the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 to extend the Medicaid demonstration programs to improve access to community mental health services.
**Waters, Maxine (D-CA)**

**HR 4182, Women Veterans Support Act:** To improve the efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs to prevent suicide by women veterans, and for other purposes.

**Watson Coleman, Bonnie (D-NJ) – MH Caucus Member**

HRes 480. Acknowledging the racial disparities in diagnosing and treating mental health among youth in communities of color.

**Wild, Susan (D-PA) – MH Caucus Member**

**HR 4327, Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act:** To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to promote comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans, and for other purposes.

**HR 4428, Greater Mental Health Access Act:** To establish a special enrollment period for family members of an individual who has died by suicide, to establish a competitive grant program to provide services and support to friends and family members impacted by an individual's suicide, and for other purposes.

**Zeldin, Lee (R-NY)**

**HR 1749, PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act:** To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to State and local entities to carry out peer-to-peer mental health programs.