

## US Legislative Activity

### Peer Alliance Survey Priorities

**HR** House of Representatives Bill                      **S** Senate Bill

#### *Accessibility*

- HR945 Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program;
- HR1533 Amending the title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program;
- HR1767 Increasing the number of states that may participate in Medicaid demonstration programs that improve access to community mental health services. It also extends the two-year term for existing state demonstration programs by two years;
- HR2519 Authorizing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to award grants to qualifying emergency departments for the purpose of supporting mental-health services. Specifically, grant recipients must use funds to support the provision of follow-up services for individuals who present for care of acute mental-health episodes, such as placement in appropriate facilities;
- HR4327 Requiring the Department of Education to encourage institutions of higher education to develop and implement comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans;
- S782 Increasing the Medicare reimbursement rate for clinical social worker services. The bill excludes alters the definition of clinical social worker services as it relates to Medicare. Under current law, such services include services performed for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses and exclude services furnished to an inpatient of a skilled nursing facility as a condition of the facility's participation in the Medicare program. It repeals these provisions and specifies that such services include certain types of health behavior assessment and intervention;
- S1594 Amending title 38, United States Code, to provide for unlimited eligibility for health care for mental health; and
- S3456 Protecting the digital privacy of consumers.

#### *Discrimination*

- HR1564 Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to 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;
- HR2826 Requiring the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to develop and implement an outreach and education strategy regarding behavioral health issues among the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations. The strategy must promote behavioral and mental health and reduce stigma associated with mental health conditions and substance abuse among such populations;
- HRes480 Acknowledging the racial disparities in diagnosing and treating mental health among youth in Communities of Color;
- S3392 Expanding and improving access to trauma-informed mental health interventions for newly arriving immigrants at the border, to alleviate the stress of and provide education for border agents; and
- S1642 Directing the Department of Education to award grants to partnerships between educational agencies and graduate institutions to increase the number of school-based mental-health services providers employed by low-income local educational agencies (LEAs). Grant funds may be used for specified purposes, including to provide student-loan forgiveness and tuition credits and to support recruitment, hiring and training. In addition, the Department of Education shall establish a program to provide student-loan forgiveness for individuals who are not, and have never been, participants in the grant program established by the bill and have been employed by low-income LEAs for five or more consecutive school years as mental-health providers.

## US Legislative Activity

### *Funding*

- HR1533 Amending the title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program;
- HR6999 Establishing the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Network, and for other purposes;
- HR7780 Authorizing 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 facilitate the funding of community-based mental health and substance use disorder services and peer support programs, and for other purposes;
- HRes1057 Addressing the high prevalence of those suffering from mental health conditions and substance use disorders, the United States needs to make historic financial investments into mental health and substance use disorder care and finally acknowledge such care as a priority in health care equal to physical health, and for other purposes;
- S3312 Establishing crisis stabilization and community re-entry grant program;
- S3825 Establishing the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Network, and for other purposes;
- S3436 Establishing grant programs to improve the health of border-area residents and for all hazards preparedness in the border area including bio-terrorism, infectious disease, and non-communicable emerging threats;
- S3438 Reauthorizing the tele-health network and tele-health resource centers grant programs;
- S3548 (Law) Providing emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families, and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic;
- S3562 Providing supplemental appropriations for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, and the Head Start and Early Head Start programs; and
- S3634 Addressing health workforce shortages and disparities highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic through additional funding for the National Health Service Corps and Nurse Corps;
- S1668 Expanding the National Health Service Corps Program to include service in pediatric inpatient mental health facilities;
- S1782 Requiring institutions of higher education in federal student aid programs to share contact information for suicide prevention services with students: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line and a campus mental health center or program; and
- S3999 Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure access to mental health and behavioral health services furnished through telehealth under the Medicare program.

### *Housing & Housing Assistance*

- HR3077 Modifying tenant income eligibility requirements and the average income formula for determining income. It also revises rules for student occupancy of rental units and tenant voucher payments and prohibits any refusal to rent to victims of domestic abuse. The bill further modifies the credit to: establish a 4% minimum credit rate for certain housing projects; repeal the qualified census tract population cap; prohibit local approval and contribution requirements; increase the credit for certain projects designated to serve extremely low-income households; eliminate the basis reduction for properties that receive certain energy-related tax benefits; etc;
- HR3211 Establishing the Task Force on the impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis and requires the task force to make recommendations on how to use affordable housing to improve the effectiveness of federal programs and improve life outcomes;
- HR3478 Amending the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to the low-income housing tax credit, to modify the basis limitation rules applicable to the acquisition of buildings in service within the previous ten years;

## US Legislative Activity

- HR3479 Amending the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to the low-income housing tax credit, to repeal the qualified contract option for a building that received its allocation of housing credit dollar amount before Jan. 1, 2019, or received before that date, a determination from the bond issuer or housing credit agency of its eligibility to receive an allocation of a housing credit dollar amount. Under current law, properties subject to the low-income housing tax credit are subject to a 30-year affordability period, during which the value of properties is set at a below-market rate. The qualified contract option allows property owners, in some cases, to convert to market rate after fifteen years;
- HR4239 Allowing non-recognition of gain, for income tax purposes, from the sale of real property to a qualified housing operator for use or development by such operator as affordable housing;
- HR6011 Allowing non-recognition of gain, for income tax purposes, from the sale of real property to a qualified housing operator for use or development by such operator as affordable housing. To be eligible for non-recognition of gain, the seller must make the property either residential rental property (not less than 75% of the units of which are affordable to low-income families or a homeless shelter;
- S1703 Modifying tenant income eligibility requirements and the average income formula for determining income. It also revises rules for student occupancy of rental units and tenant voucher payments and prohibits any refusal to rent to victims of domestic abuse. The bill further modifies the credit to: establish a 4% minimum credit rate for certain housing projects; repeal the qualified census tract population cap; prohibit local approval and contribution requirements; increase the credit for certain projects designated to serve extremely low-income households; eliminate the basis reduction for properties that receive certain energy-related tax benefits; etc;
- S1772 Establishing the Task Force on the Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis and requires the task force to make recommendations on how to use affordable housing to improve the effectiveness of federal programs and improve life outcomes; and
- S1956 Amending the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to the low-income housing tax credit, to repeal the qualified contract option for a building that received its allocation of housing credit dollar amount before Jan. 1, 2019, or received before that date, a determination from the bond issuer or housing credit agency of its eligibility to receive an allocation of a housing credit dollar amount. Under current law, properties subject to the low-income housing tax credit are subject to a 30-year affordability period, during which the value of properties is set at a below-market rate. The qualified contract option allows property owners, in some cases, to convert to market rate after fifteen years.

## Peer Alliance Survey Results: Information of Interest

### *Affordable Options*

**Free Peer Support Agencies (PSAs) are Free!** Visit [dhhs.nh.gov](https://dhhs.nh.gov) and search for “Peer Support” to find the list of peer support agencies around the State of NH.

### *Alternative Treatments*

- HR1801 Directing 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;
- HR1920 Amending 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;
- HR2874 Strengthening parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits;
- HR3074 Amending the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 to extend the Medicaid demonstration programs to improve access to community mental health services;
- HR3165 Strengthening parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits;
- HR3592 Reauthorizing through FY2024 and revising the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness. The program provides services to individuals who (1) are suffering from serious mental illness, or are suffering from serious mental illness and from substance abuse; and (2) are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. The minimum allotment of program funding for each state

## US Legislative Activity

and territory is increased on the condition that appropriations are sufficient to provide the minimum allotment to all states and territories;

HR4131 Directing the Drug Enforcement Administration to register certain community mental health centers to administer controlled substances via tele-medicine;

HR4194 Amending 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;

HR4199 Protecting individuals by strengthening the Nation’s mental health infrastructure, improving the understanding of violence, strengthening firearm prohibitions and protections for at-risk individuals, and improving and expanding the reporting of mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System;

HR4290 Directing 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;

HR4428 Establishing 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;

HR5006 Amending title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicaid program for services for the treatment of psychiatric or substance use disorders furnished to certain individuals in an institution for mental diseases;

HR5201 Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicare program of certain mental health tele-health services;

HR5411 Directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a Task Force on Local Mental Health Needs;

HR5473 Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to provide for Medicare and Medicaid mental and behavioral health treatment through tele-health;

HR5697 Directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish emergent mental health care to certain individuals;

HR5867 Directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish or update certain clinical practice guidelines of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes;

HR5909 Strengthening mental health collaboration in communities;

HR6075 Expanding and improving access to trauma-informed mental health interventions for newly arriving immigrants at the border, to alleviate the stress of and provide education for border agents;

HR6143 Improving maternal mental and behavioral health outcomes with a particular focus on outcomes for minority women;

HR6170 Directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a pilot program to study the efficacy of dog-assisted therapy on vulnerable populations;

HR6201 (Law) Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020;

HR6206 Providing that the President may provide additional federal assistance for an emergency related to a public health emergency, including a pandemic or virus threat;

HR6308 Addressing root causes of homelessness, meet the needs of community members experiencing harms from homelessness, transition communities towards providing housing for all, and ensure full democratic participation and inclusion of persons experiencing homelessness;

HR6379 Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020;

HR6645 Directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, to conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of SARS–CoV–2 or COVID–19; and

HR6800 (Passed House) Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

## US Legislative Activity

### *Community Services*

- CMHCs Many Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) offer Open Access, which enables you to schedule appointments much earlier than you could in the past and be seen sooner. Visit [dhhs.nh.gov](http://dhhs.nh.gov) and search for “**Community Mental Health Center**” to find the list of community mental health centers.
- PSAs **Peer Support is Free!** Visit [dhhs.nh.gov](http://dhhs.nh.gov) and search for “**Peer Support**” to find the list of peer support agencies around the State of NH.

### *Education*

- HR2958 Directing the Department of Education to award grants to partnerships between educational agencies and graduate institutions to increase the number of school-based mental-health services providers employed by low-income local educational agencies (LEAs). Grant funds may be used for specified purposes, including to provide student-loan forgiveness and tuition credits and to support recruitment, hiring and training. In addition, the Department of Education shall establish a program to provide student-loan forgiveness for individuals who are not and have never been participants in the grant program established by the bill and have been employed by low-income LEAs for five or more consecutive school years as mental-health services providers;
- HR3192 Requiring institutions of higher education (IHEs) that participate in federal student aid programs to share contact information for suicide prevention resources with students. If IHEs distribute student identification cards, then they must include on the cards phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line and a campus mental-health center or program. If IHEs do not create such cards, then they must publish the numbers on the IHE’s websites;
- HR4327 Requiring the Department of Education to encourage institutions of higher education to develop and implement comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans; and
- S1122 Providing specific statutory authority for the Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) State Educational Agency Grant Program that is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The program supports school-based mental-health services, including screening, treatment and outreach programs.

### *Facilities*

#### *First Responders Interactions*

- HR2698 Directing the Office of Justice Programs within the Department of Justice to award grants to law enforcement agencies for behavioral health crisis response training; and
- S1464 Directing the Office of Justice Programs within the Department of Justice to award grants to law enforcement agencies for behavioral health crisis response training.

#### *Food Programs*

- HR4297 Expanding eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to students attending institutions of higher education; and
- HR6510 Requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to expand for all the States during the COVID-19 public health emergency declared under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, the program to approve retail food stores to accept through on-line transactions supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits provided under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

#### *Insurance Coverage*

- HR884 Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program;

## US Legislative Activity

- HR945 Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program;
- HR1301 Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of certain mental health tele-health services;
- HR7323 Removing the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital services under Medicare;
- S286 Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program;
- S824 Increasing the number of States that may conduct Medicaid demonstration programs to improve access to community mental health services;
- S1737 Strengthening parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits;
- S2047 (Law) Providing for a two-week extension of the Medicaid Community Mental Health Service Demonstration Program;
- S2772 Amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program;
- S3864 Removing the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital services under Medicare; and
- S3792 Requiring parity in the coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services provided to enrollees in private insurance plans, whether such services are provided in-person or through tele-health.

### *LGBTQ+ Services*

- HR2775 Amending the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to ensure protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth and their families;
- HR3280 Directing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to take measures to increase the frequency of collection of information on the sexual orientation and gender identity of deceased individuals through the National Violent Death Reporting System;
- HR3374 Requiring financial institutions to report certain credit application data to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for the purposes of enforcing fair-lending laws. Specifically, financial institutions must report this data regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer-owned businesses. Currently, this data is reported regarding women-owned, minority-owned and small businesses;
- HR3509 Requiring federal agencies that collect information through a survey that includes demographic data to review existing data sets to determine in which data sets information about sexual orientation and gender identity is not included, and to assess needed changes in survey methods related to asking questions on sexual orientation and gender identity. Agencies that publish reports relying on survey demographic data must include information on sexual orientation and gender identity; and
- S1980 Requiring federal agencies that collect information through a survey that includes demographic data to review existing data sets to determine in which data sets information about sexual orientation and gender identity is not included, and to assess needed changes in survey methods related to asking questions on sexual orientation and gender identity. Agencies that publish reports relying on survey demographic data must include information on sexual orientation and gender identity.

### *Medication Administration Techniques*

#### *Medication-Centered Care*

- S1334 Authorizing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to award grants to qualifying emergency departments for the purpose of supporting mental-health services. Specifically, grant recipients must use funds to support the provision of follow-up services for individuals who present for care of acute mental-health episodes, such as placement in appropriate facilities;

## US Legislative Activity

- S3532 Amending titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of prescription digital therapeutics for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders under the Medicare and Medicaid programs; and
- S3544 Assisting older Americans and people with disabilities affected by COVID-19.

### *Peer-Centered Care*

- HR7780 Authorizing 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 facilitate the funding of community-based mental health and substance use disorder services and peer support programs, and for other purposes.

### *Substance Use Disorders*

- HR1302 Authorizing the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, acting through the Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, to award grants to States to expand access to clinically appropriate services for opioid abuse, dependence, or addiction.

### *Suicide Prevention*

- HR3192 Requiring institutions of higher education (IHEs) that participate in federal student aid programs to share contact information for suicide prevention resources with students. If IHEs distribute student identification cards, then they must include on the cards phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line and a campus mental-health center or program. If IHEs do not create such cards, then they must publish the numbers on the IHE's websites;
- HR4327 Requiring the Department of Education to encourage institutions of higher education to develop and implement comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans;
- S606 Improving oversight and evaluation of the mental health and suicide prevention media outreach campaigns of the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- S2661 Amending the Communications Act of 1934 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
- S3351 Directing the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

### *Transportation*

- HR2164 Requiring all buses purchased or leased with Federal Transit Administration funds to be zero-emission beginning on Oct. 1, 2029. The Department of Transportation (DOT) must issue an annual best practices report on zero-emission bus programs to help states and transit agencies implement zero-emission bus fleets. The bill reauthorizes through FY2029 specific programs related to low or no-emission vehicles and components. DOT must give preference in awarding grants under the low or no-emission program to transit agencies who have completed a full fleet transition plan.

### *Veterans' Services*

- HR5027 Requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to furnish free comprehensive mental health care to any former member of the Armed Forces, including reservists. Additionally, the bill makes any former member of the Armed Forces, including reservists, eligible for readjustment counseling and related mental health services;
- S785 Improving mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

## US Legislative Activity

S3210 Requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to develop a clinical practice guideline or guidelines for the treatment of serious mental illness.

### *Workforce*

HR2431 Requiring the Health Resources and Services Administration to establish a loan-repayment program for mental-health professionals who work in designated workforce-shortage areas; and

S2500 Amending the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to relieve workforce shortages.

### *Youth Services*

HR1109 Providing statutory authority for the Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) State Educational Agency Grant Program that is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The program supports school-based mental health services, including screening, treatment and outreach programs;

HR1395 Authorizing state and local educational agencies to use student support and academic enrichment grants to improve mental health services available to students. Specifically, it allows funds to be used for identifying and disseminating best practices for mental health first aid, emergency planning, coordination of services and telehealth services;

HR2775 Amending the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to ensure protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth and their families;

HR2958 Directing the Department of Education to award grants to partnerships between educational agencies and graduate institutions to increase the number of school-based mental-health services providers employed by low-income local educational agencies (LEAs). Grant funds may be used for specified purposes, including to provide student-loan forgiveness and tuition credits and to support recruitment, hiring and training. In addition, the Department of Education shall establish a program to provide student-loan forgiveness for individuals who are not and have never been participants in the grant program established by the bill and have been employed by low-income LEAs for five or more consecutive school years as mental-health services providers;

HR3192 Requiring institutions of higher education (IHEs) that participate in federal student aid programs to share contact information for suicide prevention resources with students. If IHEs distribute student identification cards, then they must include on the cards phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line and a campus mental-health center or program. If IHEs do not create such cards, then they must publish the numbers on the IHE's websites;

HR3489 Authorizing 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;

HR4025 Establishing the Mental Health in Schools Excellence Program to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health service providers, and for other purposes;

HR5204 Directing the Secretary of Education to study student mental health at institutions of higher education (IHE) and to issue guidance on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for mental health and substance use disorder policies of IHEs, and for other purposes;

HR5469 Addressing mental health issues for youth, particularly Youth of Color, and for other purposes;

S1122 Providing specific statutory authority for the Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) State Educational Agency Grant Program that is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The program supports school-based mental-health services, including screening, treatment and outreach programs;

## US Legislative Activity

- S1204 Authorizing 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; and
- S1668 Expanding the National Health Service Corps Program to include service in pediatric inpatient mental health facilities.