

October 12, 2018

The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senate  
530 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lynn Jenkins  
United States House of Representatives  
1526 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-1602

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
United States House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Portman, Senator Whitehouse, Congresswoman Jenkins, and Congresswoman Matsui,

On behalf of the Behavioral Health Information Technology (BHIT) Coalition, the undersigned organizations are writing to **thank you for your outstanding leadership in spearheading S.1732/HR 3331, the Improving Access to Behavioral Health Information Technology Act, and its inclusion in the final opioid package, The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (HR 6). This legislation authorizes a behavioral health information technology pilot program administered by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) and is the only CMMI demonstration included in HR 6.**

Established in 2010, the BHIT Coalition is comprised of a broad spectrum of organizations dedicated to advancing public policy initiatives that tap the full potential of technology in the delivery of coordinated, integrated services and treatment for people with a history of mental health and substance use. **The BHIT Coalition recognizes that we cannot hope to address the opioid crisis successfully without providing electronic health records (EHRs) and supporting health information technology within behavioral health settings, and we would like to thank you for your leadership to address this barrier in the efforts to fight the opioid epidemic.**

We recognize the crucial steps this legislation takes to address the opioid epidemic. We thank you for your immense and steadfast dedication to improving care coordination for individuals with histories of mental health and substance use conditions and look forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with you to ensure proper implementation of your vast legislative vision. Congratulations on this achievement.

Sincerely,

American Psychological Association

Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness

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**MEMBERS:** American Psychological Association • Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness • Centerstone • Jewish Federations of North America • Mental Health America • National Alliance on Mental Illness • National Association of Counties • National Association of County Behavioral Health Directors & Developmental Disability Directors • National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems • National Association of State Alcohol/Drug Abuse Directors • National Association of Social Workers • National Council for Behavioral Health • Netsmart

Centerstone

The Jewish Federations of North America

Mental Health America

National Alliance on Mental Illness

The National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors

The National Association of Rural Mental Health

National Association for Behavioral Healthcare

National Association of Social Workers

National Council for Behavioral Health

Netsmart