

**From:** [Katrina Mason](#)  
**To:** [Katrina Mason](#)  
**Subject:** RE: POLITICO: Behavior health IT to Congress: Don't forget about us  
**Date:** Thursday, October 2, 2014 3:38:13 PM

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**From:** POLITICO Pro eHealth Whiteboard [<mailto:politicoemail@politicopro.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2014 3:13 PM  
**To:** Al Guida  
**Subject:** Behavior health IT to Congress: Don't forget about us

10/2/14 3:11 PM EDT

A group of nine national mental health organizations [wrote](#) the House Energy and Commerce Committee today encouraging them to consider behavioral health IT as part of its 21st Century Cures initiative.

The Behavioral Health IT Coalition wants to be included in the meaningful use EHR incentive program, from which it is currently excluded.

“The undersigned organizations are now deeply concerned that without access to meaningful use payments and HIT, it will soon become impossible to provide clinical care coordination for this highly vulnerable population, which requires regular interaction between mental health/addiction services providers, primary care physicians and medical specialty personnel,” the letter states.

The group, which includes the American Psychological Association, pointed to separate bills from Reps. Marsha Blackburn and Tim Murphy as evidence of boarder support for such a legislative change.

— *David Pittman*

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