



National Alliance for Hispanic Health

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September 29, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

The National Alliance for Hispanic Health (the Alliance) – on behalf of our community-based members delivering health and human services to over 15 million in Hispanic communities every year – urges the Senate to pass the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022 to authorize critical investments in mental health and substance use treatment and prevention services and ensure that help reaches the communities most in need. We commend the bipartisan effort to pass H.R. 7666 in the House and call on the Senate to now take action.

Our Nation is contending with a mental health crisis that has been exacerbated by the stress, social isolation, and hardship brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Suicide is currently the [second leading cause of death](#) among adolescents between the ages of 10 and 14 and young adults between the ages of 25 and 34 and last year [one in five](#) high school students seriously considered attempting suicide. Access to mental health services remains limited, especially for Hispanics and other underserved communities. [Two-thirds \(64.9%\)](#) of Hispanic adults living with a mental illness do not receive treatment and among Hispanics 12 and older with a substance use disorder, more than nine in ten (91.7%) go without treatment.

The Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022 will provide vital support for community mental health services, substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, and maternal mental health care. In addition, it will fund youth suicide prevention, strengthen and diversify the mental health care workforce, and advance mental health parity in health plans.

The bipartisan Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022 represents a critical opportunity to address the mental health and substance use treatment needs of communities across the country. As National Suicide Prevention Month draws to a close, we the Senate to keep mental health at the forefront of its legislative priorities and pass these crucial mental health provisions before the end of the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Jane L. Delgado, Ph.D., M.S.
President and CEO

National Alliance for Hispanic Health

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