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Frances Roton Bell
P.O. Box 570218
Dallas, Texas 75357-0218
Phone: (972) 613-0985
Fax: (972) 613-5532
E-mail: frdal@airmail.net

Web Page: www.communitypsychiatry.org

May 20, 2008

The Honorable George Miller
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Miller:

The American Association of Community Psychiatrists (AACCP) wishes to add to the many organizations and individuals who express support for House Resolution 5876, the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2008. We have followed the issues addressed in this important piece of legislation closely. One of our board members, Charles Huffine, MD is a member of A START and is on the board of CAFETY. He has kept us informed about the progression of the GAO investigation and the emergence of HR 5876. We are horrified at what we have learned and admire your courage and commitment in addressing the human rights and interstate commerce issues involved.

The AACCP is a group of approximately 500 psychiatrists who work in settings that provide services to some of the most neglected populations. We have a strong commitment to not only providing our patients with quality services but joining with them in advocating for social justice. We are very aware that adolescents are often poorly understood, poorly served and are subject to outrageous and inhumane practices. Our members who work with teenagers know well what your committee is addressing regarding abusive residential programs and are not surprised by your early findings. Your efforts have given hope the many families and youth who have been harmed by those in this industry that have abused their trust. Thank you and your committee for your excellent work in addressing abuse and neglect in residential programs for youth.

Count us among the many organizations supporting HR 5876 as it moves from your committee to the full House of Representatives

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hunter McQuiston, M.D.
President-Elect, AACP