



National Association for Rural Mental Health

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May 2, 2014

Representative Ron Barber
US House of Representatives
Atten: Lauren Alfred, Legislative Director

The National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD) and the National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH) are very pleased to offer this letter of support to you, Representative Grace Napolitano of California, Representative Diana DeGette of Colorado, Representative Paul Tonko of New York, and other key members of the House of Representatives, who soon will be introducing the **Strengthening Mental Health in Our Communities Act of 2014**.

This Act will promote recovery-oriented, trauma-informed mental health care for all Americans. And, very importantly, it will create a much-needed new White House Office of Mental Health Policy to foster essential change and to coordinate mental health programs and budgets across all branches of the federal government.

We look forward to working with you and these other House Members to enact a mental health Bill that will benefit all Americans and will begin to fill significant gaps in our care system, including the need for expanded peer support services, and better rural mental health services.

The implementation of the Affordable Care Act provides a wonderful context in which the effects of this new Bill can begin to exert significant impact upon our care system.

Sincerely,

Ron Manderscheid, PhD
Executive Director