

# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

W W W . A A C A P . O R G

## Council

President  
Paramjit T. Joshi, M.D.

May 7, 2014

President-Elect  
Gregory K. Fritz, M.D.

Hon. Ron Barber  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1029 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Secretary  
Aradhana "Bela" Sood, M.D.

Treasurer  
David G. Fassler, M.D.

Dear Representative Barber:

Chair, Assembly  
of Regional Organizations  
of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Warren Y.K. Ng, M.D.

On behalf of the 8,700 members of the American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), I am writing to congratulate you and your colleagues on the introduction of H.R. 4574, the "Strengthening Mental Health in Our Communities Act of 2014." We are highly supportive of its many provisions relating to needed Federal programs, policies and improvements for children and adolescents with behavioral, emotional, intellectual and mental health disorders and conditions. With deep appreciation, we note your inclusion throughout much of the bill of provisions and language specific to the mental health needs of young Americans.

Past President  
Martin J. Drell, M.D.

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Stephen J. Cozza, M.D.  
Deborah Deas, M.D.  
Debra E. Koss, M.D.  
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Kayla Pope, M.D.  
Neal Ryan, M.D.  
Jennifer S. Saul, M.D.  
Harsh K. Trivedi, M.D.

AACAP is especially grateful for the inclusion in your bill, (at Section 406), of the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Relief program that was previously authorized under the Public Health Service Act. In our view, this modest loan repayment program would immediately begin to alleviate the chronic shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists in America. It is critical that this provision be re-authorized and funded this year.

Jerry M. Wiener  
Resident Member  
Vandai X. Le, M.D.

AACAP also favorably notes that a number of the provisions in H.R. 4574 are also included in the other leading House and Senate comprehensive mental health reform measures. These very important provisions include such worthy programs as the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act reauthorization (suicide prevention and treatment), National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative, and comprehensive community mental health services for children with serious emotional disturbance and others. AACAP also endorses your bill's call for greater NIH funding and other medical research on the causes and best treatments for mental illness. We urge prompt enactment of all of these and other similar provisions.

John E. Schowalter  
Resident Member  
Marika Wrzosek, M.D.

Executive Director  
Heidi B. Fordi, CAE

Journal Editor  
Andrés Martin, M.D.

AACAP News Editor  
Uma Rao, M.D.

Program Committee Chair  
Gabrielle A. Carlson, M.D.

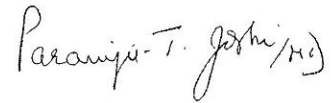
With the introduction of your bill, we strongly urge both Houses of Congress to swiftly take up and move through committee and to the respective floors these and other forward-looking bills so that comprehensive mental health reform legislation can be debated, passed and enacted this year. Indeed, the time is now for action to address the unmet mental health needs of Americans, particularly children and adolescents.

Robert L. Stubblefield  
Resident Fellow to AMA HOD  
Anita Chu, M.D.

In the spirit of good will and caring for the mental and behavioral needs of America's youth, we re-pledge ourselves to working with your colleagues and you on a bi-partisan basis to ensure the prompt enactment of needed mental health reforms this year. Your

leadership in introducing this thoughtful bill will add greatly to the momentum necessary to achieve our shared goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paramjit T. Joshi, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a distinct 'MD' at the end.

Paramjit T. Joshi, MD  
President