



Pacific Clinics
ADVANCING BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

800 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, California
91006-3555

626.254.5000
Fax 626.294.1077

May 29, 2014

The Honorable Ron Barber
Arizona's 2nd District
1029 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Barber,

Pacific Clinics is writing to support H.R. 4574, Strengthening Mental Health in our Communities Act of 2014. We are grateful for your leadership as the primary author in coordinating a Democratic bill that is thoughtful, objective, and comprehensive. The recent tragedy at Isla Vista highlights the urgency in articulating a National Strategy for Mental Health, a key element in H.R. 4574. Both the establishment of the White House Office of Mental Health Policy and the National Strategy would identify mental health as a federal priority requiring intra-agency collaboration and accountability. We also support the bill's aim to strengthen SAMHSA, address workforce issues, authorize community mental health centers to receive HIT meaningful use funds, and invest in school based mental health services. For these reasons, Pacific Clinic is in full support of H.R. 4574.

As a non-profit community mental health agency serving five Southern California counties, Pacific Clinics provides outpatient mental health & substance use disorder treatment, prevention programs, and supportive services to individuals with serious mental illness and SED children. With several programs targeting Asian Pacific Islander, Latinos, and Armenian communities, Pacific Clinics is pleased that H.R. 4574 acknowledges the importance of culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate care. Furthermore, our Latino Youth Program (thanks to the support of Congresswoman Napolitano) highlights the importance of adequately funded school based mental health services, collaboration with different school districts and community based organizations, and the continued need for education/anti-stigma campaigns.

We look forward to working with your staff to pass the Strengthening Mental Health in our Communities Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Susan Mandel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Susan Mandel, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
SM:ww

C: The Honorable Grace Napolitano, 32nd Congressional District