



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

December 11, 2013

The Honorable Tim Murphy, Ph.D.
United States House of Representatives
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Murphy:

On behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA), the organization representing 137,000 members and affiliates engaged in the practice, research, and teaching of psychology, I write to applaud your leadership, as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Oversight Subcommittee, in undertaking a review of the mental health system, and for your dedication to crafting the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013, legislation to improve the service delivery system for providers, patients, and families.

As a practicing psychologist in Congress, we know how important mental health is to you. We too seek to expand the provision of evidence-based, mental health services necessary for the well-being of children, adolescents and adults with mental disorders, including those with serious mental illness receiving treatment through the community mental health system, an integrated behavioral health and primary care network, or an in-patient setting.

Comprehensive mental health reforms, such as those proposed in your legislation, deserve attention by a broad range of behavioral health stakeholders, and we appreciate your outreach and consideration of our input. We are committed to working with you and other mental health leaders in Congress on the bill's provisions and any necessary modifications to foster an improved service system. If you have any questions, please contact Doug Walter, J.D., Acting Associate Executive Director, for Government Relations in our Practice Organization at dwalter@apa.org or 202-336-5889.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine C. NORDAL PhD".

Katherine C. Nordal, PhD
Executive Director for Professional Practice

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