

National Association for Behavioral Healthcare



Access. Care. Recovery.

22 November 2023

Sen. Bill Cassidy, M.D.
520 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Sent electronically.

Dear Sen. Cassidy:

NABH is pleased to endorse your efforts to reauthorize the expired provisions of the *Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act)*. Your legislation, the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2023 (S. 3106)* addresses many of the ongoing vital behavioral health needs facing our country.

NABH represents the entire behavioral healthcare continuum, including not-for-profit and for-profit provider systems that treat children, adolescents, adults, and older adults with mental health and substance use disorders (SUDs) in inpatient behavioral healthcare hospitals and units, residential treatment facilities, partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs, medication-assisted treatment centers, specialty outpatient behavioral healthcare programs, and recovery support services in 49 states and Washington, D.C.

Your comprehensive approach to extending the programs included in the *SUPPORT Act* recognizes the ongoing effects of the opioid crisis on our communities and individuals struggling with SUDs. NABH especially appreciates your recognition that this crisis requires an all-hands-on deck approach to ensure patients can access the vital services they need by expanding eligibility for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grants Service Providers to for-profit entities.

Section 208 of your legislation recognizes that a significant and increasing number of SUD providers operate for-profit facilities. Recent data from the National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS) found:

- Facilities operated by private for-profit organizations increased to 41% in 2020 from 30% in 2010. (N-SSATS 2020)
- Private for-profit organizations operated 41% of all facilities and treated 45% of all clients. (N-SSATS 2020)
- Facilities operated by private non-profit organizations decreased to 50% of facilities in 2020 from 58% of all facilities in 2010. (N-SSATS 2020)
- Private for-profit organizations operated 62% of facilities with Opioid Treatment Providers. (N-SSATS 2020)

NABH's members believe that a facility's tax status has no bearing on the quality-of-care providers deliver to patients. At a time when many individuals who need mental health and SUD services are not able to access those services, it makes no sense to limit grantees based on a facility's tax status. We need to apply a comprehensive approach to treatment, and prohibiting half – and in some instances more than half – of available providers from participation/eligibility based on their tax status results in denying access to care for the potentially millions of Americans who need these services urgently.

900 17th Street, NW, Suite 420
Washington, DC 20006-2507

Phone: 202.393.6700
Email: nabh@nabh.org
Web: www.nabh.org

National Association for Behavioral Healthcare



Access. Care. Recovery.

Thank you for considering our comments. NABH is eager to assist you in your future efforts on this critical issue. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at Shawn@nabh.org or 202-393-6700, ext. 100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn Coughlin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Shawn' and last name 'Coughlin' clearly distinguishable.

Shawn Coughlin
President and CEO

900 17th Street, NW, Suite 420
Washington, DC 20006-2507

Phone: 202.393.6700
Email: nabh@nabh.org
Web: www.nabh.org