



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

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Partnership for Medicaid Applauds Reintroduction Of Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act *Letter Announces Support of S. 824/ H.R. 1767*

WASHINGTON — The Partnership for Medicaid today welcomed the reintroduction of the Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act (S. 824/ H.R. 1767). The bill adds two years to the current Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Medicaid demonstration in eight states and expands the program to an additional 11 states.

Introduced by Sens. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Reps. Doris Matsui (D-CA) and Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), the bill would ensure continued access to “timely and clinically appropriate care to ... vulnerable and high-need patients,” [according to a letter](#) the coalition sent to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The partnership also applauded the bill’s provisions to integrate mental health and addiction treatment with primary care. The Partnership for Medicaid is a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition formed to preserve and improve the Medicaid program.

“CCBHCs are designed to serve those individuals with the most complex mental illnesses and addictions with a comprehensive array of mental health and addiction services,” the letter says.

Established in 2014, the demonstration launched an innovative care model that integrates behavioral health with physical health care, increases consistent use of evidence-based practices, and improves access to high-quality care. CCBHCs provided care to nearly 400,000 patients with serious mental illness and addiction disorders in the first year of implementation. Data estimate that prior to this care up to one in four of these patients had never been in behavioral health treatment.

The 67 CCBHCs currently participating must provide 24-hour emergency mental health crisis care, medication-assisted treatment, and screening and monitoring of physical health indicators. In addition, they must establish partnerships with primary care providers, including Federally Qualified Health Centers. As a result, more than half of current CCBHCs have enhanced their on-site primary care services and several have co-located their facilities with FQHCs.

“Unfortunately, with the CCBHC demonstration set to end in mid-2019, access to these lifesaving treatments could be lost,” the letter says.... If Congress fails to act, community-based behavioral health treatment capacity will be lost for participating states, and the costs of treating this population will likely shift to hospitals and other intensive care settings.”

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The Partnership for Medicaid is a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing doctors, health care providers, safety net health plans, counties and labor. The goal of the coalition is to preserve and improve the Medicaid program.

The Partnership for Medicaid seeks to raise awareness about the vital role played by the Medicaid program, which provides essential health care services to more than 58 million people. By working in a bipartisan manner with all levels of government and affected constituency groups, we seek to provide viable solutions to improving the quality and delivery of services, with the aim of constraining costs without undermining the program's fundamental goals.

Above all, **The Partnership for Medicaid** is a unified voice to ensure that Medicaid continues its crucial role as a strong safety net for vulnerable Americans.