



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

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Partnership for Medicaid Supports Medicaid Mental Health Provisions in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to Address the Nation's Mental Health Crisis

The Partnership for Medicaid – a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition of [organizations representing clinicians, health care providers, safety-net health plans, and counties](#) – applauds the Medicaid provisions of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. Our member organizations recognize the severity of the mental and behavioral health crisis occurring across the nation, and in particular among our nation's children and youth. We welcome this opportunity to advance vital federal Medicaid policy solutions that begin to address this crisis.

The legislation contains many welcome Medicaid improvements and investments supported by the Partnership in the recent past to increase access to mental health services, particularly for children. These include (a) expanding community mental health services by allowing all states to participate in the Medicaid Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) demonstration to increase access to coordinated and integrated behavioral health care; (b) enhancing and expanding Medicaid school-based health programs to meet children where they are; (c) improving oversight of Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment benefit, a Medicaid benefit tailored to children's needs and coverage, to ensure that children receive the health services they need; (d) increased utilization of telehealth to bolster children's access to mental health services through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program; (e) additional funding to increase the nation's crisis response capacity and the 988 crisis continuum of care; and more.

With swift passage of these Medicaid improvements in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, Congress will begin to build the foundation for addressing the nationwide mental health and substance use crisis, particularly for children.