



June 2022

KEY MESSAGES: H.R. 7666

THE RESTORING HOPE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ACT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE

H.R. 7666, the bipartisan legislative package, “Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act” provides resources and support to address the mental health and substance use disorder crises facing millions of Americans.

- More than [50 percent of adults](#) in America will be diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder at some point in their lifetime.
- [One in five](#) children has or will have a seriously debilitating mental illness and [suicide is the second leading cause of death](#) among children and young people between the ages of 10 and 14.
- More than [2 million people in the United States have an opioid use disorder](#) and nearly [108,000 people died due to drug overdose](#) in 2021, a record-breaking number that followed a 30 percent increase in the rate of overdose deaths from 2019 to 2020.
- About [122 million Americans](#) live in areas experiencing mental health professional shortages. In [2020](#), 46 percent of adults with a mental illness received treatment and less than 2 percent in need of substance use treatment received it.
- Consumers with health care coverage [face coverage limitations](#) and [numerous challenges](#) accessing mental health and substance use disorder benefits provided by their health plans, which can lead to increased costs and delayed care.

The legislation strengthens and expands more than 30 critical programs that collectively support mental health care and substance use disorder prevention, care, treatment, and recovery support services in communities across the nation.

- As the nation prepares for the launch of the [“988” National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) dialing code in July 2022, H.R. 7666 provides for key crisis response efforts, such as the establishment of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Behavioral Health Crisis Coordination Office and the development of crisis response best practices.
- It also supports additional adult suicide prevention services, and treatment for those with serious mental illnesses, mental health support for pregnant or postpartum women, and peer support—including virtual platforms. The bill continues investment in the Community Mental Health Services Block Grants for states, territories, and Tribes to provide services for adults and children with serious mental health conditions—requiring that five percent of funding be used for crisis-care services and allowing, for the first time, up to five percent of the funds to be used for early intervention activities.
- The bill also provides support for substance use disorder services, including for Veterans and those experiencing homelessness. It addresses underage drinking, the opioid epidemic and overdose prevention, while also improving the quality of recovery housing. It also extends critical investment in the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grants for states, territories, and Tribes to provide related services for impacted individuals, families, and communities.

The Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act includes crucial provisions to meet the challenges of the nation's opioid epidemic.

- H.R. 7666 expands patient access to life-saving evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders by eliminating the X-waiver, which imposes arbitrary limits on providers' ability to prescribe buprenorphine.
- The bill eliminates barriers in access to methadone, another evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders. These barriers can prevent patients from getting timely access to treatment.
- The legislation enhances training requirements for practitioners who prescribe controlled substances, to reduce stigma and increase their ability to identify and treat substance use disorders.

H.R. 7666 helps bolster the behavioral health workforce and increases access to mental health and substance use disorder care and coverage.

- The bill includes key provisions to bolster both mental health and substance use disorder workforce capacity and training, such as the Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training Grants and the integration of behavioral health into primary care, such as through the Collaborative Care Model.
- H.R. 7666 also provides funding to assist states to enforce and ensure compliance with mental health parity and applies mental health parity requirements to our state and local government workers, such as teachers and first responders.

The legislation supports the mental health of children and young people and provides substance use disorder prevention and related services for adolescents as well as their families and caregivers.

- H.R. 7666 continues investment in the integration of behavioral health into pediatric primary care through the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access grants. It also supports several programs intended to provide services for a range of ages and mental health needs from infant and early childhood mental health promotion to comprehensive community services for children with serious emotional disturbances.
- The bill also addresses the behavioral health needs of older adolescents, providing suicide prevention, other mental health support, and substance use disorder services for students in higher education through the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act programs.

H.R. 7666 also significantly strengthens Medicaid behavioral health services for children.

- [Medicaid in schools](#) and the use of [telehealth](#) are effective strategies to increase children's access to care. The legislation will ensure that state Medicaid programs have the resources they need to implement and strengthen these delivery systems by requiring the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to provide updated guidance that includes best practices for both approaches.
- [Many juveniles in the justice system are eligible for Medicaid](#), but long-standing payment exclusions prevent them from receiving Medicaid services while incarcerated. This can [disrupt access to care and lead to individuals being discharged without linkages to treatment in the community](#). H.R. 7666 promotes continuity of access to care and will help minimize disruptions in treatment by authorizing federal Medicaid funding for juveniles in pre-trial detention, and to conduct mental health screenings prior to their release.