



Don Miskowicz, MBA, Board Chair
Linda Rosenberg, MSW, President and CEO

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Warren and Sanders,

On behalf of the National Council for Behavioral Health, I am writing today to thank you for your continued commitment to the mental health and addiction community. As the nation continues to grapple with an ongoing opioid epidemic and mental health crisis, there has never been a more important time to promote policies and fund programs that will save lives.

The National Council is the unifying voice of America's community mental health and addictions treatment organizations. Together with 2,900 member organizations, it serves more than 10 million adults and children living with mental illnesses and addictions. The organization is committed to ensuring all Americans have access to comprehensive, high-quality care that affords every opportunity for recovery and full participation in community life.

The National Council has long supported high levels of funding for mental health and addiction programs that meet the needs of Americans across the country. From programs and initiatives within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to initiatives within the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the National Council fully supports adequate and necessary funding for programs that enhance access to treatment, increase competencies and use of evidence-based practices among providers, and educate the American public on signs and symptoms mental illness and addiction through programs like Mental Health First Aid.

With one in five Americans experiencing a mental illness each year and more than 20 million Americans experiencing addiction to opioids, now is the time to support the highest possible levels of funding for health care programs in the federal budget. The National Council applauds your leadership and thanks you for your continued and committed support for helping the millions of Americans with mental illness and addiction get the treatment and help they need to achieve full recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Rosenberg".

Linda Rosenberg, MSW
President and CEO
National Council for Behavioral Health