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December 7, 2021

Senator Elizabeth Warren
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) writes today in strong support of the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 2021. The CARE Act of 2021 is a bold proposal that includes the systematic changes and financial resources that are needed to combat the ongoing overdose crisis. We commend you for your leadership in addressing substance use disorders in Massachusetts and across the country.

ABH is a Massachusetts-based, statewide association representing 80 community-based mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations. ABH's members are the primary providers of publicly-funded behavioral healthcare services, serving approximately 81,000 Massachusetts residents daily, 1.5 million residents annually, and employing over 46,500 people.

As you well know, Massachusetts and the United States are in the midst of an unprecedented opioid overdose crisis. In 2020, Massachusetts lost 2,106 individuals from opioid-related overdoses, reaching a peak that had previously only been seen in 2016. While the treatment community is grateful for the continued commitment of Congress to address addiction, our service needs consistently outpace our capacity. A historically low-resourced sector, the behavioral health system continues to be strained by the enormity and urgency of its needs.

This legislation would make a significant difference in access to addiction treatment services for individuals and families living with substance use disorders. It provides \$125 billion in federal funding over ten years to support and expand treatment and recovery services, federal research and prevention programming.

Additional federal funding is essential in addressing the crisis and we strongly support the comprehensive, public health approach to treating substance use disorder as proposed by your legislation. This legislation will undoubtedly allow individuals with substance use disorder to better access the services and support they need, when they need it.

ABH is pleased to offer our strong support for this crucial piece of legislation. Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at lconley@abhmass.org.

Sincerely,


Lydia Conley
President & CEO