

June 21, 2022

Dear Member of the House of Representatives,

On behalf of The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC), we write **urging you to vote YES** on the bipartisan “*Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-being Act*” (H.R. 7666) when it is called for a vote later this week.

ERIC is a national nonprofit organization exclusively representing the largest employers in the United States in their capacity as sponsors of employee benefit plans for their nationwide workforces. With member companies that are leaders in every economic sector, ERIC is the voice of large employer plan sponsors on federal, state, and local public policies impacting their ability to sponsor benefit plans and to lawfully operate under ERISA’s protection from a patchwork of different and conflicting state and local laws, in addition to federal law.

The legislation would reauthorize Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) programs to address the national mental health and substance use disorder crises, providing critical support to meet American workers’ and children’s mental and behavioral health needs. ERIC strongly supports the legislation, as it would:

- Integrate multiple health care disciplines through collaboration to provide patients with higher quality care
- Establish a Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office to recommend best practices and offer support for health care providers assisting patients in a mental health crisis
- Research and evaluate evidence-based programs within the National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory
- Evaluate data collection and public reporting on mental health and substance abuse grants and programs
- Establish a Center of Excellence for eating disorders
- Update policies regarding opioid treatment programs
- Increase education funding for provider mental and behavioral health programs

We are pleased that the Managers’ Amendment adopted in the Rules Committee improved the bill even further, adding desperately needed transparency for employers into the costs of the prescription drugs they buy and out-of-pocket costs experienced by their employees. This provision will save billions of dollars for patients, employers, and taxpayers, as they understand even more about prescription drug costs, and we strongly support including it in a final package.

ERIC believes that the time is now to advance this legislation to the President’s desk. **As such, ERIC urges members to vote YES, and support the passage of the “*Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-being Act*” (H.R. 7666),** and provide much needed funding and improvements to programs that can improve mental and behavioral health options for all Americans.

Sincerely,

