

To Our Allies in Mental Health,

The recent election and impending repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, "Obamacare") once again casts a cloud of uncertainty over our healthcare system. This has left many people feeling worried and looking for productive ways to help forge the path ahead. Our team is particularly concerned about the impact repeal would have on people with mental illness. Key portions of the ACA have extended a concept known as mental health parity to an additional 62.5 million Americans. Not only does this guarantee equal mental and physical health benefits, but it also requires individual and small group insurance plans to offer mental health and substance abuse coverage for the first time. Additionally, the Medicaid and social safety net expansions in the law have greatly improved the lives of the most vulnerable members of our society who suffer disproportionately from mental illness.

Our team is currently bringing together students, healthcare providers, community advocates, patients, and other concerned citizens to lead a grassroots advocacy project to save these critical portions of the ACA related to mental health. The new administration has indicated a willingness to keep certain popular provisions of the ACA alive, and we feel that salvaging these portions is a practical, bipartisan target in the new reform movement. Our current plan includes a petition to Congress, a telephone and email campaign, meetings with key stakeholders and politicians, and community education sessions. We have also created a website to provide education on the importance of the ACA's mental health provisions and bring together the many grassroots advocacy projects already in existence.

Any help you can provide would be absolutely invaluable. You can join our team, help us establish important contacts, sign our petition, and call or email your congressional leaders right now by visiting SaveMentalHealthReform.org. Additionally, we would love to be able to list you as a key supporter—a person our team can mention as being behind our work when we speak with other potential advocates. Our team truly believes that the time is ripe for mental health reform and that we are uniquely positioned among the medical disciplines to hold onto our progress. Your support will help us save mental health reform and keep moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

The SaveMentalHealthReform.org Team

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