

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
CHADD – Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)  
Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (FFCMH)  
Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Mental Health America  
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)  
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHD)  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)  
National Coalition of Mental Health Consumer/Survivor Organizations (NCMHCSO)  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (NCCBH)  
National Empowerment Center (NEC)  
National Mental Health Consumer's Self-Help Clearinghouse  
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPANUSA)  
United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA)

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William Emmet  
Director

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October 5, 2007

The Honorable Jack Reed  
728 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gordon H. Smith  
404 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed and Senator Smith:

On behalf of the Campaign for Mental Health Reform and the many thousands of mental health service providers, administrators, advocates, consumers, and their families represented by its seventeen member organizations, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in developing the Community Mental Health Services Improvement Act.

As you are aware, recent studies have vastly increased our understanding of the disproportionate incidence of poor health and early death among recipients of mental health services in this country. In encouraging development of collaborative models to address the healthcare needs of people with mental illness and substance use disorders, your bill takes a major step towards righting this grievous wrong. Our Campaign believes strongly that mental health and overall health are thoroughly integrated in their effect on a person's well-being; the corollary is that treatment and services should be integrated, as well. Thank you for recognizing this need.

We are also very pleased to see the bill's provisions addressing the serious workforce issues facing the mental health care field. Reform of our system simply cannot happen if we fail to attract and properly train qualified individuals to provide care of the highest quality. Quality and access to services are also addressed by the provisions in your bill that promote tele-health and increased use of information technologies. In rural communities, especially, these approaches are needed to fill appalling existing gaps in appropriate services.

**The Campaign for Mental Health Reform**  
1105 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 1212  
Washington, DC 20005

Senators Reed and Smith  
October 5, 2007  
Page 2

Your bipartisan leadership in this area of critical need is greatly appreciated. We also recognize the timeliness of your introduction of the Community Mental Health Services Improvement Act, and we look forward to working with you to ensure its advance as reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration proceeds through Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Emmet". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

William Emmet  
Director