

July 14, 2009

The Honorable Jack Reed  
SH-728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

On behalf of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, which represents 1,600 Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) and other community-based behavioral health agencies serving 6 million low income children and adults with mental health and addiction disorders, I am writing to express our strong appreciation for your leadership role in introducing Reed amendment #200 to provide grants for co-locating primary and specialty care in community-based mental health settings.

This amendment provides increased funding to support collaborative relationships between primary care and behavioral health providers in communities around the country to directly address the alarming mortality rate of individuals with serious mental illnesses. In addition, the funding for prevention and wellness activities will allow community providers to help individuals with mental illness manage their chronic physical health conditions.

Again, thank you for being a champion for individuals with mental illnesses and addictions and the providers that serve them. As Congressional action on health care reform continues to move forward, we look forward to your continued partnership to ensure that the needs of individuals with mental illnesses and addictions are met.

Sincerely,



Linda Rosenberg, MSW  
President & CEO