Mental Health Liaison Group

October 17, 2014

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Blunt, Stabenow and Moran:

The undersigned national organizations in the Mental Health Liaison Group are writing to support your bill, the *Caring for America's Heroes Act*, S. 2276. The legislation will bring mental health treatment in line with the way physical injuries are treated under TRICARE and eliminate the limit on the number of days allowed for inpatient treatment for mental health services. Congratulations to both of you for your bipartisanship on these important mental health and substance abuse issues.

Through passage of federal parity laws, coverage for mental health and addictive disorders is on par with other medical disorders. We must now finish the parity job for our veterans and finally give TRICARE beneficiaries the full parity that other individuals now have.

We urge Congress to eliminate the limit on the number of days allowed for inpatient treatment for mental health services by passing your bill. This would improve access to inpatient mental health services. The elimination of the limit on the number of days will equalize TRICARE mental health coverage with private health insurance coverage, offer beneficiaries the choice of inpatient mental health care providers, increase access for the most seriously ill, improve continuity of care and create a more cost-effective TRICARE program.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to enact this legislation and eliminate discrimination against TRICARE beneficiaries with mental health and substance use disorders.

Sincerely,

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

National organizations representing consumers, family members, advocates, professionals and providers

c/o Laurel Stine, J.D., American Psychological Association at lstine@apa.org
and Debbie Plotnick, MSS, MLSP, Mental Health America at dplotnick@mentalhealthamerica.net

American Association of Pastoral Counselors
American Dance Therapy Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Orthopsychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Clinical Social Work Association
Clinical Social Work Guild 49
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Mental Health America
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health*
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of Anorexia and Associated Disorders - ANAD
National Association of Counties*
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Disability Rights Network
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
National League for Nursing
No Health Without Mental Health (NHMH)
Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America
The Trevor Project
Tourette Syndrome Association
Treatment Communities of America

** Observer Group*