

February 14, 2025

## **House Budget Resolution Would Put Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services at Risk for Millions of Americans**

Statement of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), on the House Budget Committee budget resolution, as approved on February 13, 2025:

The House [budget](#) resolution will have a devastating impact on the American health care system and the millions of Americans with mental health (MH) conditions and substance use disorders (SUD) who rely on Medicaid, as a lifeline, to access needed health care services. The House budget resolution calls for the Energy and Commerce Committee to find \$880 billion in savings, a target that we fear will be attained with significant coverage losses or benefits reductions within Medicaid.

Changing Medicaid's financing structure, reducing eligibility or benefits, or imposing additional barriers to coverage and enrollment would take away quality, affordable MH/SUD care from approximately 72 million Americans who rely on Medicaid, including children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, seniors, and veterans. In the midst of our nation's ongoing mental health crisis, including its devastating impact on youth, and our ongoing overdose epidemic, it is paramount that access to life-saving MH/SUD services is not reduced, and the integrity of the Medicaid program to serve as a vital, federal and state partnered safety-net is preserved.

Limiting access to Medicaid threatens to undermine gains in reducing overdose mortality rates and could lead to increasing rates of incarceration and hospitalization. Medicaid is the single largest payer of MH and SUD services, and cuts of this magnitude will undeniably have devastating consequences for our citizens, states and health care providers. We urge Congress not to pursue harmful cuts to Medicaid. All people, regardless of their economic circumstances, deserve access to evidence-based MH and SUD care, and we all pay a high cost when that care is unattainable.

The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) is a coalition of over 100 national organizations representing people with mental health conditions and substance use disorders, family members, mental health and addiction providers, advocates and other stakeholders, and is committed to strengthening Americans' access to mental health and substance use disorder care.