

September 1, 2026

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2111 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Extending The Medicaid Mobile Crisis Option

Dear Chairman Crapo, Senator Wyden, Chairman Guthrie and Rep. Pallone:

On behalf of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), the largest coalition of national organizations representing individuals and families experiencing mental health and substance use challenges, mental health and substance use treatment providers, advocates, and other stakeholders committed to strengthening access to high-quality care, we write in strong support of the continuation of the Medicaid Mobile Crisis State Option authorized Section 1947 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S. Code 1396w-6).

As of this writing, twenty-one (21) states have opted into this important program. According to comprehensive data tracked by the National Research Institute (NRI), mobile crisis teams nationwide served 770,216 persons in immediate psychiatric, or substance use crisis in 2023 alone. These two person teams, typically composed of a social worker and peer support professional, arrive at the scene of a crisis episode – sometimes in tandem with law enforcement for those jurisdictions that have opted for a co-responder model – when a critical incident cannot be resolved during a phone call, text or chat received by a suicide prevention and lifeline call center to provide onsite assessment and stabilization.

More broadly, Medicaid Section 1947 financing plays an important role in the ongoing construction of the 9-8-8 continuum of care consisting of: crisis call centers, mobile crisis teams and crisis receiving and stabilization services. Since its launch in July 2022, the 9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline has handled over **26.2 million contacts** (calls, texts, and chats) nationwide. Monthly volume has steadily doubled pre-launch levels, consistently surpassing 500,000 contacts per month, with peaks frequently exceeding 600,000. In its Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Congressional Budget Justification, the Trump administration projects that 9-8-8 will respond to approximately **11 million contacts** (calls, texts, and chats). While 90% of crisis, texts and chats are

resolved by front call centers and back up centers, the remaining contacts require more intensive emergency services including the dispatch of mobile crisis teams.

In short, to continue responding to immediate behavioral health crises and save lives, it is essential for Congress to continue Section 1947 financing for the Medicaid mobile crisis state option in the end of year health care package.

Sincerely,

American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP)
American Association on Health and Disability
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association Services
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Children's Hospital Association
Crisis Text Line
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)
Easterseals
Emergency Nurses Association
Fountain House
Inseparable
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Mental Health America
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability
Directors (NACBHDDD)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)
National Council for Mental Wellbeing
National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA)
National League for Nursing
Recovery Innovations
The American Counseling Association
The Kennedy Forum
The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Tourette Association of America
Treatment Advocacy Center
Vibrant Emotional Health
Youth Villages