



The Community Mental Wellness & Resilience Act

**House Sponsors: Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY),
Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Don Bacon (R-NE)**

Senate Sponsor: Senator Edward Markey (D-MA)

119th Congress

Supporting Organization Statements:

"Community is Medicine' for our nation's current epidemic of mental health and psychosocial problems. We strongly support the landmark bi-partisan Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act because it is vital to actively engage communities in preventing and healing social, psychological, emotional, and behavioral issues resulting from accelerating toxic stresses, emergencies, and disasters. Mental health issues cost the U.S. economy more than \$280 billion annually, which is a financial burden comparable to an economic recession every single year. We urge Congress to pass this much needed legislation because it will empower communities to actively address today's epidemic of mental health and psychosocial problems, and in doing so dramatically cut the massive economic costs of these issues."

❖ **ITRC Coordinator Bob Doppelt**

"The American Psychiatric Association strongly supports the Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act of 2025, which would enhance communities' ability to confront the mental health impacts of disasters, emergencies, and other severe stressors. This forward-thinking proposal would foster resilience and mental wellness in communities across the nation, and we encourage Congress to swiftly move it forward."

❖ **APA CEO and Medical Director Marketa M. Wills, M.D., M.B.A.**

"We need to give equal attention to preventing and healing the psychological consequences of the increasingly frequent and intense natural disasters as we do on building more resilient physical infrastructure. It is critical that these population health issues be addressed systematically and quickly. Fortunately, we have tools to address this challenge, but need policies and investments to implement them. The Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act of 2025 is essential in meeting these challenges and for this reason we urge Congress to enact the legislation."

❖ **Dr. David Shern, Senior Associate, Department of Mental Health Bloomberg School of Public Health, Senior Public Health Advisor at National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, and former President/CEO of Mental Health America**

"The American Public Health Association strongly supports the Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act of 2025. The nationwide mental health epidemic is a public health crisis, and the increasing incidence and intensity of extreme weather events, along with a multitude of other rising stresses, will continue to exacerbate the problem. APHA urges Congress to pass this legislation to help support communities by providing them with the resources they need to implement a comprehensive public health approach to improve mental wellness and resilience."

❖ **APHA Executive Director Dr. Georges C. Benjamin**

"Communities across the country are unfortunately already experiencing the impacts of disasters like flooding, deadly heat waves and wildfires. When disaster strikes, the physical impacts can be swift and severe, but communities can't ignore the long-term mental health consequences. This bill puts communities in the driver's seat to use science-based public health approaches to protect health in both the short and long-term. The American Lung Association is proud to support this bipartisan solution to a growing challenge."

❖ **Harold Wimmer, President and CEO, American Lung Association**

"For too long, underserved communities, including Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities, have been overlooked, underserved, and pushed to the margins of America's mental health system. The bipartisan Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act of 2025 is a powerful, community-led response to this crisis. It puts resources where they belong: in the hands of trusted local leaders who understand what our communities need. The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum proudly stands with leaders on both sides of the aisle, because advancing equity and building real, lasting mental health resilience is not optional for our communities, it's essential."

❖ **Juliet K. Choi, President and CEO, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum**

"The mental health impacts of accelerating stresses and disasters generated by the climate crisis constitute a public health crisis. Unfortunately, our current health system is not prepared to adequately care for those burdened by rising adversities. Nurses understand the importance of the proactive and holistic approach that is the foundation of the Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act of 2025. Passage of this legislation is a much needed step towards building resilience and promoting mental wellness in the face of climate change and for this reason the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments strongly urges Congress to enact the legislation."

❖ **Katie Huffling, Executive Director, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments**

"There has never been a more important time to prioritize the well-being of our communities, and to focus on building the infrastructure of a world where people have the resources they need to heal and to thrive. The Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act of 2025 is a vital step towards the kind of communities our children, families, and neighbors deserve."

❖ **Elizabeth Bechard, Public Health Manager, Moms Clean Air Force**

"It is essential to enact The Community Mental Wellness and Resiliency Act of 2025 to create the social infrastructure throughout the United States needed to prepare our citizens for the array of mental health challenges resulting from persistent toxic stresses and acute disasters. Our organization works across the U.S. and we have seen a systemic lack of preparedness to respond to the mental health challenges people face before, during, and after traumatic stressors and disasters. This policy is urgently needed to support coordinated community-based initiatives and for this reason my organization strongly urges Congress to enact the legislation."

❖ **Elaine Miller-Karas, Co-Founder and Executive Director Emerita at the Trauma Resource Institute**

"We know how to build strong resilient communities. We follow the science, and we put our focus on weaving trauma-informed and resilience-based practices into the very fabric of our community. Data confirms that the use of resilience-based practices can help communities overcome adversity and related health outcomes. We now have renewed urgency to enact the Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act of 2025 to ensure all communities have access to this life-saving and revelatory framework. For this reason we urge Congress to pass the legislation."

❖ **Becky Turner, Director of Community Engagement for the Community Resilience Initiative in Walla Walla, WA**

Supporting Organizations

113 organizations have expressed their support for this legislation, including:

350 Eugene; Advanced Behavioral Health; Afri-TRCN; Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments; Aloka Earth Room & Saranaloka Foundation; American Association for Community Psychiatry; American Association on Health and Disability; American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; American Lung Association; American Psychiatric Association; American Psychological Association Services Inc.; American Public Health Association; Anxiety and Depression Association of America; Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum; Attachment & Trauma Network, Inc.; Beyond BookSmart, Inc.; Brushwood Center; Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy & Practice; Center for the Adv of Innovative Health Practices; Cheshire Children's Museum; Climate Psychiatry Alliance; Climate Psychiatry Alliance; Clinical Social Work Association; Committee for Children; Community Resilience Initiative; Community Resilience Initiative, WA; Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy; Critica; Cultivation For Users' Hope; Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA); EcoMadres; Empower Africa Youth Network; Future Focused Education; Global Alliance for Behavioral Health & Social Justice; Global Enviro-Action; Good Grief Network; Healing the Home; Health Care Without Harm; Here To Love; Hope Counselling Pte Ltd; Integrated Care Counsel, LLC; International Transformational Resilience Coalition; International OCD Foundation; Jen Johnson, LCMHC; Key Populations Uganda; Lahore School of Behavioural Sciences; Lakeshore Foundation; Liberia Center for Outcomes Research in Mental Health; Liberman Group, Inc.; Maine Public Health Association; Mental Health America; Meremeta Community initiatives Organization; Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action; Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action; Moms Clean Air Force; Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate; Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc.; Movimento Integrado de Saude Nebtak Comunitaria (Community Therapy); National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners; National Association of Social Workers; National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors; National League for Nursing; National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives; NEATLabs; Neighborhood Resilience Project; New Hampshire Healthy Climate; New Hanover County Resiliency Task Force; New Leaf Counseling, LL; Northern Valley Catholic Social Service; One Shared Spirit; Operation Xcel; Organic Intelligence; Partnership to End Addiction; Peace4Tarpon; Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine; PIRE: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation; Prevent Child Abuse Illinois; Prevention Institute; PSR Arizona Chapter; RIMYA Services; Rural Opportunity Institute; Sabater Laboratory for Psychological Innovations Inc (SabaterLAB); SabaterLAB Foundation; Safer Together; Save the Children; Sheikh Zayed Medical College/Hospital; Stonewall and Child Support Development Foundation; Stress Clinic Uganda; Sukaar Welfare Organization; Susanne Moser Research & Consulting; Tanzania Community Health Information and Support; The Blueford Group; The CARE Group, Inc.; The Caribbean Voice; The Children's Agenda; The Kennedy Forum; The Resiliency Group; The Resiliency Initiative; The Resilient Activist; Trauma & Resilience Initiative Inc.; Trauma Resource Institute; Trauma-Informed Hampshire County; UCLA Mindful: Mindfulness Education Center; Unitarian Universalist Mental Health Network; University of California Climate Resilience; Unthinkable; Wading Hills Farm L.L.C.; WE in the World; Whatcom Family & Community Network; YMCA of the USA; Youth and Women for Change in Eswatini; Youth and Women for Change in Eswatini; Youth Frontier for Peace and Advocate Foundation