



April 27, 2022

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chair
House Committee on Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee
272 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Eshoo:

On behalf of the over 5,000 Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) across the country, the National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) thanks you for your leadership introducing the Strengthen Kids' Mental Health Now Act of 2022 (H.R.7236).

This investment in pediatric behavioral health services throughout the continuum of care, including through outpatient providers like Rural Health Clinics, is critical to reducing barriers to access. For more than 40 years, RHCs have been providing essential care to residents of rural medically underserved communities. However, RHCs have almost no access to grant funding through existing grant infrastructure and thus appropriating additional funds through existing grant programs will leave many rural areas ineligible. Therefore, we strongly support the creation of new authorizing language in H.R. 7236 because it equitably includes RHCs.

The National Association of Rural Health Clinics would like to express our sincere appreciation for your work in introducing the Strengthen Kids' Mental Health Now Act of 2022 and we look forward to working with you to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

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