



251 West Central Street
Suite 21
Natick, MA 01760

T 508.647.8385
F 508.647.8311
www.ABHmass.org

Vicker V. DiGravio III PRESIDENT / CEO
Diane E. Gould, LICSW CHAIR

ASSOCIATION
FOR BEHAVIORAL
HEALTHCARE

May 6, 2019

Senator Elizabeth Warren
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren,

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) writes today in strong support of the soon to be introduced CARE Act of 2019. The CARE Act of 2019 is a bold proposal that includes the systematic changes and financial resources that are needed to combat this epidemic. We commend you for your work in addressing the ongoing opioid crisis in Massachusetts and across the country.

ABH is a Massachusetts-based, statewide association representing more than eighty community-based mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations. Our members are the primary providers of publicly-funded behavioral healthcare services in the Commonwealth, serving approximately 81,000 Massachusetts residents daily, 1.5 million residents annually, and employing over 46,500 people.

This legislation would make a huge difference in access to programming for individuals and families living with opioid addiction disorder. It provides \$100 billion in federal funding over ten years to support treatment and recovery supports, along with federal research and prevention programming.

As you well know, Massachusetts and the United States are in the midst of an unprecedented opioid epidemic. The treatment community is grateful for the continued commitment of Congress to combat this epidemic, but the demand for treatment continues to outpace capacity. Every day ABH member organizations see more demand for treatment than they have capacity to provide. This is in large part due to insufficient resources given the enormous scope of the epidemic.

Additional federal funding and support is essential in addressing the crisis. We strongly support the comprehensive approach to treatment as proposed by your legislation. Individuals with addiction disorders need access to treatment as well as other community supports. This legislation will allow individuals to access the services they need to achieve recovery.

ABH is pleased to offer our strong support for this important piece of legislation. Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 508-647-8385 x 11 or vdigravio@abhmass.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicker V. DiGravio III". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vicker V. DiGravio III
President/CEO