[DATE]

[Your name/organization name]

[personal/Organization address]

The Honorable [FULL NAME]

[NAME OF LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER]

[ADDRESS]

Dear [FULL NAME AND TITLE]:

State relationship to legislator (i.e., I am a service provider/consumer in your district)

I am writing to implore you to support increased funding for mental health services through the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) congressional budget. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted many of the current inadequacies in our country’s mental health system, but these problems persisted long before the pandemic and will continue without sustained investment in the system’s infrastructure.

The Biden Administration has proposed funding to strengthen and sustain the mental health system capacity, enhance connections to care, and create healthy environments. We urge you and fellow lawmakers to align the FY23 budget with the Administration’s proposal.

All funding must address workforce shortages and improve the system’s infrastructure. Growing the workforce to meet current and future demands will require attracting new workers, enhancing the working environment, improving data collection, developing relevant outcome measures, and changing structures promoting discrimination. Our country must add funding to programs with the aim of improving parity, equity, and the adequacy of provider networks to enhance the behavioral health infrastructure.

Supporting these goals through the FY23 budget will demonstrate your commitment to the health and lives of individuals and families affected by behavioral health issues in our nation. Please feel free to contact me for more information, including strategies to enhance the workforce and integrated care, which are also available on The College for Behavioral Health Leadership’s website at <https://www.leaders4health.org/resources/national-behavioral-health-strategy-advocacy/>.

Signature

STREET ADDRESS to confirm constituency