

January 26, 2018

The Hon. Roy Blunt
U.S. Senator
Chair, LHHS Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Patty Murray
U.S. Senator
Ranking Member, LHHS Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Tom Cole
U.S. Representative
Chair, LHHS Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Rosa DeLauro
U.S. Representative
Ranking Member, LHHS Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Chairmen Blunt and Cole, Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro,

As local, state, and national leaders who believe that the federal government should harness the power of data and evidence to solve our nation's greatest challenges, we are concerned that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA) has discontinued the contract for administering the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP), as [reported](#) by the *Washington Post* on January 10, 2018.

We believe that all federal agencies should identify and promote the use of evidence-based interventions through publicly-available, user-friendly tools. While we recognize there are [limitations](#) to NREPP's current approach that should be addressed, we urge the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and SAMSHA to improve NREPP rather than eliminating it altogether.

Overall, we commend SAMHSA's commitment to the use of data and evidence through various efforts such as the creation of an evaluation policy, dissemination of evidence-based strategies through the Learning Center, and recently announced [technical assistance](#) to advance evidence-based practices in addressing opioid use and serious mental illness. As part of these efforts, we believe NREPP can and should play an integral role in ensuring that SAMSHA funds are invested in results-driven, evidence-based solutions.

To that end we urge the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees with jurisdiction over HHS to include report language in the FY2018 appropriations bills expressing support for the promotion and use of evidence-based practices throughout HHS, including but not limited to a strengthened clearinghouse at SAMSHA.

We applaud the Members of Congress who work every day to ensure that taxpayer dollars are invested in what works. And we look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

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Quantitative Health Sciences, Case Western
Reserve University

cc: U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) and U.S. House Committee on Energy & Commerce.