

January 26, 2018

The Hon. Eric D. Hargan
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Elinore F. McCance-Katz
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and
Substance Use
SAMHSA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Acting Secretary Hargan, Assistant Secretary McCance-Katz,

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.

We applaud the committed servants at HHS 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,

AcademyHealth
Achievement Network
America Forward
America's Promise Alliance
American Statistical Association
AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation
BARR Center
Bottom Line
Cascade Philanthropy Advisors
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Committee for Children
Communities In Schools
Community Training and Assistance Center
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NYC Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity
Power to Decide, the campaign to prevent
unplanned pregnancy
Project Evident
Reliance Methods
Research Institute for Key Indicators
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