

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

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December 13, 2013

The Honorable Tim Murphy
United States House of Representatives
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

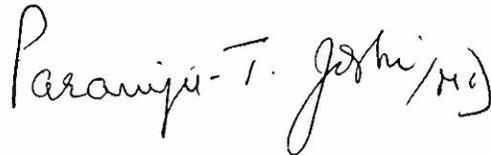
Dear Chairman Murphy:

On behalf of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), I write to applaud your lifelong commitment to improving the mental health of all Americans, especially children and adolescents. As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Oversight subcommittee, you have brought needed attention to the issue of mental illness. Approximately 1 child in 5 has a diagnosable mental health disorder, yet the majority never receive treatment. Nearly half of all lifetime cases of psychiatric conditions begin by the age of 14 and seventy five percent by the age of 24. These statistics alone underscore the need for comprehensive mental health reform and improved access to effective and appropriate interventions.

AACAP is especially pleased that your legislation creates an Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders, and programs aimed at reducing stigma through the Department of Education. We also applaud the reauthorization of the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, and the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reeducation Act.

AACAP thanks you for your support of these provisions and we look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to improve the lives of children and adults with psychiatric and substance abuse disorders.

Sincerely,



Paramjit T. Joshi, M.D.
President