



Diverse National Stakeholders Applaud President Biden and U.S. Congress for New Gun Safety Law that Addresses Mental Health

Passed by wide margins in the Congress on a bipartisan basis and signed into law by President Biden, the measure allocates billions of dollars to schools and communities for expanding mental health programs.

Washington, D.C. – June 27, 2022 – The Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness – made up of dozens of diverse national organizations collectively advocating for stronger mental health supports in the U.S. – praised President Biden and the U.S. Congress for passing and signing into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. The legislation represents an important step forward to advancing gun safety and providing mental health funding, and especially to combat social isolation and loneliness for youth.

“The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is an important step forward to address the youth mental health crisis in the United States, exacerbated by the crisis of social isolation and loneliness,” said Coalition Founder and Chairman, Andrew MacPherson. “With nearly 75% of Generation Z in the United States feeling lonely, never before has it been more important to invest in expanding mental health services for youth.”

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act includes a broad array of provisions dedicated to addressing the gun violence epidemic in the United States as well as provisions specifically included to address mental and behavioral health. Such provisions include:

- Expanding community mental health services demonstration programs
- Providing guidance to states on furnishing mental health services through telehealth under Medicaid and CHIP
- Providing technical assistance to state Medicaid agencies, local school boards, and other school-based entities to support the delivery of mental health services to Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries in school-based settings
- Reforming the review process for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment services under the CHIP program
- Reauthorizing the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access (PMHCA) grant program

“The Coalition will continue to advocate for common sense provisions to ultimately improve the mental and social health of all Americans,” said MacPherson.

The Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness (CESIL) brings together a diverse set of national organizations including consumer groups, health plans, health care providers, technology innovators, patient advocates and more to develop and advocate for federal policy solutions to address the crisis of social isolation and loneliness. For more information, please visit: www.endsocialisolation.org.

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