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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3005

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(1/1/2019-)

Dear Mr. Curtin,

Thank you for contacting regarding support for additional resources for mental health and addiction services. I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has taken a toll on the mental health of our entire community, especially those already suffering from mental illnesses. An estimated one in five adults, including more than one million adults in New Jersey, have been diagnosed with a mental illness. Feelings of depression, anxiety, and isolation during this difficult time have further exacerbated our country's mental health crisis. Now more than ever, it is essential that we support our veterans and families and eliminate the stigma surrounding treatment, so that they can get the quality mental health care they need and deserve.

As your Representative, I am committed to improving access to treatment for mental health and substance abuse. I helped pass two pieces of legislation to provide vital resources for mental health treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic. First, the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) allocates funding to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), suicide prevention programs, emergency-response resources, and mental health treatment in tribal communities. This legislation also supports the Department of Veterans Affairs' expansion of telehealth services to veterans, including programs to assist homeless and vulnerable veterans.

In addition, I was proud to vote for the HEROES Act which provided an additional \$2 billion for SAMHSA and its efforts to address substance abuse and mental illnesses through emergency response grants, funding for the Suicide Lifeline and Disaster Distress Helpline, and behavioral health resources for students. I also called on House leadership to include additional funding for SAMHSA in future Coronavirus relief packages.

Thank you again for contacting my office. Please keep in touch with any additional questions or comments by emailing me at <https://gottheimer.house.gov/contact/>. If you would like to receive regular updates from me, please visit <https://gottheimer.house.gov/forms/emailsignup/> to sign up for my e-newsletter.

Sincerely,

Rep. Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress