



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AMA APPLAUDS CONGRESS FOR TAKING ACTION TO BRING MENTAL HEALTH CARE TO MILLIONS OF AMERICANS**

Statement attributable to:     Jeremy Lazarus, M.D.  
  American Medical Association Board Member

“Today, the U.S. Congress took action to bring vitally important mental health care coverage to the 100 million Americans who struggle daily with a mental illness. Passage of the bill ends more than ten years of gridlock on the issue of mental health parity, and requires that insurance coverage for mental health and substance use disorders is on par with physical health care coverage for all Americans.

“Health insurers routinely impose more benefit restrictions on mental health services than on physical health services, despite the similarities in cost. Nearly half of all patients with a mental health disorder do not receive needed treatment. Thanks to congressional action, we can bring an end to insurance discrimination against patients with mental health needs.

“The American Medical Association is a leader on mental health parity and applauds Congress for their efforts to expand access to mental health care to all Americans.”

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**About the American Medical Association**

*The American Medical Association helps doctors help patients by uniting physicians nationwide to work on the most important professional and public health issues. Working together, the AMA's quarter of a million physician and medical student members are playing an active role in shaping the future of medicine. For more information on the AMA, please visit [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org).*