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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Rep. Jim McCrery (R-LA) Honored by National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems**

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#### **Award Recognizes Commitment to America's Mental Health**

(Washington, D.C., April 8, 2008)...**Rep. Jim McCrery (R-LA)** was honored today by the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) for his "longstanding leadership and firm commitment to working for those with serious mental illness." The award was presented at the NAPHS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., by NAPHS member **Paul Smith**, chief executive officer of Brentwood Hospital in Shreveport, LA.

Rep. McCrery was recognized for his efforts throughout his years in Congress to ensure that Americans of all ages have access to a full continuum of appropriate and affordable treatment when they need help with mental illnesses and substance use problems. In announcing the award, NAPHS Executive Director **Mark Covall** noted that after 20 years of congressional service, Rep. McCrery will retire from Congress at the end of 2008. "This award acknowledges Rep. McCrery's very valuable work," he said, "and our sincere gratitude for his determination to help us care for the patients we serve daily."

For example, Rep. McCrery was the original sponsor of legislation that established a prospective payment system (PPS) for inpatient psychiatric care. He was instrumental in moving the PPS regulation implementing the inpatient psychiatric PPS through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This major reform has helped to bring more predictability to what had been an extremely complex and outdated payment system.

As an original sponsor of the *Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Care Act*, Rep. McCrery has also taken a leadership role in addressing access concerns in communities across the nation, like his home town of Shreveport. The measure (now pending before Congress as H.R.2050 and S.2406) is designed to address the crisis of emergency department crowding by promoting the right care, at the right time, in the right setting.

"We applaud and want to recognize the extraordinary contributions Rep. McCrery has made to improving mental health care for all Americans," said Mr. Covall.

NAPHS advocates for behavioral health and represents provider systems that are committed to the delivery of responsive, accountable, and clinically effective prevention, treatment, and care for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults with mental and substance use disorders. Its members are behavioral healthcare provider organizations that own or manage more than 600 specialty psychiatric hospitals, general hospital psychiatric and addiction treatment units and behavioral healthcare divisions, residential treatment facilities, youth services organizations, and extensive outpatient networks. The association was founded in 1933.

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