

On April 15, 2010, **Reps. Patrick J. Kennedy** (D-RI) and **Tim Murphy** (R-PA) introduced the *Health Information Technology Extension for Behavioral Health Services Act of 2010*. This legislation would extend the incentives for the “meaningful use” of electronic health records established through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* by ensuring the eligibility of psychiatric hospitals, behavioral and mental health treatment facilities, substance abuse treatment facilities, and many behavioral and mental health professionals.

STATEMENT
From Mark Covall, President/CEO,
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems

on introduction of
The Health Information Technology Extension for Behavioral Health Services Act of 2010
April 16, 2010

We applaud Reps. Kennedy and Murphy for introducing this critical legislation. Mind and body are not separate, and all healthcare reform efforts – including the push to use health information technology – need to recognize this. This legislation corrects an oversight in earlier legislation, and it will go a long way toward extending the benefits of improved technology to individuals with serious psychiatric and substance use conditions.

We look forward to working with Congress to pass this important legislation and to continue to find ways to improve our overall healthcare system – particularly for the millions of Americans facing severe and persistent mental and substance use disorders.

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