



February 2, 2021

Honorable Chris Murphy
U.S Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Roy Blunt
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Murphy and Blunt:

The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) writes to express strong support for the Temporary Reciprocity to Ensure Access to Treatment (TREAT) Act. This legislation removes barriers that are hindering students from accessing mental and behavioral health services during this national emergency.

AJCU represents twenty-seven institutions in the United States, including Fairfield University, Rockhurst University and Saint Louis University. Our institutions range from major research universities to smaller colleges that combine the liberal arts and professional studies.

Recent surveys and news accounts document the negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on college students' mental health, with many reporting significant increases in depression and anxiety. In this time of uncertainty, our campus clinicians are not able to provide services to students in need (particularly those in remote areas or from economically disadvantaged backgrounds) because of the variation in state waivers for licensure and telehealth. This patchwork creates a thicket for our schools' mental health professionals to navigate, and ultimately puts our students at greater risk.

In an op-ed published in [The Hill](#), two of our Jesuit university presidents, Rev. Thomas B. Curran, S.J. of Rockhurst University and Dr. Antoine M. Garibaldi of the University of Detroit Mercy, wrote about the importance of allowing providers to practice across state lines during the pandemic: *"For universities, which welcome students from across the United States and countries around the world, navigating through state waivers presents an unnecessary and formidable challenge in providing services precisely at the moment when our students are most in need."*

The TREAT Act addresses this problem responsibly by creating a temporary uniform licensing standard for all practitioners or professionals in all states for in-person or telehealth visits during a national emergency, such as the one we face in the coronavirus pandemic today.

For our presidents, students' wellbeing remains at the forefront, especially during this crisis. We are deeply grateful for your leadership on this issue. We pledge to work with you to achieve swift passage of the TREAT Act in the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

Rev. Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.
President
Association of Jesuit College and Universities