

ASSOCIATION of JESUIT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES



April 8, 2024

Honorable Bob Latta
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Latta and Dingell:

The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) writes to express strong, continued support for the Temporary Reciprocity to Ensure Access to Treatment (TREAT) Act. AJCU represents twenty-seven institutions in the United States, including University of Detroit Mercy in Detroit, Michigan as well as John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio and Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Our institutions range from major research universities to smaller colleges that combine liberal arts and professional studies.

The Center for Collegiate Mental Health's 2023 Annual Report found a rise in students reporting trauma; experiencing threat to self (including suicidal ideation and attempts); and suffering anxiety, academic distress, family distress and social anxiety related to isolation and social comparison. All of these concerns affect a student's ability to succeed in college: research suggests that mental health problems are often associated with lower grade point averages and poor academic performance.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, most students had to leave their campuses abruptly. As a result, they lost access to mental health services due to variations in state waivers for licensure and telehealth, which put them (and their academics) at great risk. Access to mental and behavioral health service is a critical support for college success.

In an op-ed published in [The Hill](#) during the pandemic, two of our former presidents (now retired), 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: *"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. We appreciate your leadership and forethought in ensuring we are better prepared to offer continuity of services to students in the face of an emergency.

BOSTON COLLEGE, MA
CANISIUS UNIVERSITY, NY
COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS, MA
CREECHTON UNIVERSITY, NE
FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY, CT
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, NY
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, DC
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY, WA
JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY, OH
LE MOYNE COLLEGE, NY
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY, CA
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, IL
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND, MD
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS, LA
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, WI
REGIS UNIVERSITY, CO
ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY, MO
SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY, PA
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, MO
SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY, NJ
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY, CA
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY, WA
SPRING HILL COLLEGE, AL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, BELIZE
THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON, PA
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY, MI
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA
XAVIER UNIVERSITY, OH

For our presidents, students' wellbeing remains at the forefront of their minds. We are deeply grateful for your leadership on this issue, which puts the needs of students first. We pledge to work with you to achieve swift passage of the TREAT Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Garanzini" followed by a small flourish.

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