



National Latina/o Psychological Association

Asociación Nacional de Psicología Latina

October 27, 2015

Senator Chris Murphy
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:

The overarching mission of NLPA is to create a supportive professional community that advances psychological education, training, science, practice, and organizational change to enhance the health, mental health, and well-being of Latina/o communities.

We believe that in order to provide culturally and linguistically competent services, it is insufficient merely to increase representation of individuals from underserved groups. Beyond recruiting and retaining ethnically, racially, and linguistically diverse individuals, definitive action must be taken to emphasize cultural competence throughout the integrated healthcare workforce as a means of increasing the quality of care and satisfaction of those we serve. *The Mental Health Reform Act of 2015* is an excellent step in that direction. This comprehensive overhaul of the mental health system has the potential to address many of the persistent concerns facing racial and ethnic minority communities, such as misdiagnoses, low patient satisfaction, and poor health outcomes. It makes explicit that the need to provide culturally and linguistically competent mental health services is fundamental to the delivery of high quality integrated healthcare.

We are grateful that critically important areas, such as the need for evidence based practices/promising models, integrated care, recovery oriented practices, comprehensive and rigorous research/evaluation, and workforce development (i.e., Minority Fellowship Program, National Health Service Corps, and the inclusion of promotoras) were so thoughtfully and comprehensively addressed. As such, we at the NLPA enthusiastically support this legislation and its attempts to reduce disparities in our mental health system. We applaud you and Senator Cassidy for taking the monumental task of tackling mental health reform head on.

Sincerely,

The NLPA Leadership Council
www.nlpa.ws