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February 1, 2013

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0538

Dear Representative Napolitano,

On behalf of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), I write to support the Mental Health in Schools Act of 2013. Approximately 1 in 5 children have a diagnosable mental health condition, yet most never receive treatment. Access to an array of mental health services in schools can help these youth live happier and more productive lives. This legislation will continue the important work of the Safe Schools-Healthy Students program and many other programs in local school districts and communities that ensure our nation's children have the opportunity to receive quality mental health services.

The membership of AACAP is composed of over 8,500 child and adolescent psychiatrists and is the leading national medical association dedicated to treating and improving the quality of life for the estimated 15 million American youth under 18 years of age who are affected by emotional, behavioral, developmental and mental disorders.

We appreciate your leadership and continued support for children's mental healthcare. We are pleased to support this bill and we look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure its passage. Please contact Kristin Kroeger Ptakowski, Director of Government Affairs, at 202.587.9666, or kkroeger@aacap.org, if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Martin J. Drell, M.D.
President

cc: Ane Romero

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