**Sample Communication to Members in the U.S. House of Representatives in Support of H.R. 945, the Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2019**

**I am contacting you to urge your support of H.R. 945 which will provide for the coverage of mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program. Recognition of mental health counselors (MHC’s) would increase the pool of eligible mental health professionals by over 120,000 licensed practitioners in the Medicare program at a critical time when more and more baby boomers are eligible for Medicare benefits.**

**Mental health counselors are well qualified to provide covered mental health benefits and substance use services. MHC’s must obtain a master’s or doctoral degree in counseling, two years postgraduate supervised experience, and pass a national exam to obtain a license to practice independently.**

**All 50 states license MHCs to diagnose and treat mental health and emotional disorders. Many federal programs already recognize mental health counselors, including the National Health Service Corps, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and TRICARE.**

**We respectfully request your support for – and consider co-sponsoring – H.R. 945, so that your elderly constituents have better access to critically important and consistent mental health and addiction services.**

**Sincerely**

**Name**

**Contact Information**