

## Contact

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## The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Applauds Broad Congressional Endorsement of Peer Support Measures in the Omnibus Appropriations Package

**Chicago (December 20, 2022)** – The Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) [omnibus appropriations package](#) which was filed today in the U.S. Senate is a win for organizations such as the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) and other mental health advocacy groups with its inclusion of funding for peer support services. The omnibus package includes expansion of peer-supported mental health services and an increase in provision of peer support services for the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as additional peer support provisions in other federal programs.

“DBSA is excited to see the legislative branches recognizing the critical role of peer support,” said Michael Pollock, DBSA’s chief executive officer. “Every day, we at DBSA help countless individuals from a broad range of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups find community, wellness, and hope through our 24/7 online support groups led by peers. Each peer support group offers a safe space for those with mood disorders to connect with others on a similar mental health journey. We continue to broaden our services as the demand is great, and we know we are making a significant difference in the quality of life for those who join our groups.”

DBSA would like to thank the following individuals for their tireless efforts to ensure the inclusion of peer support in the omnibus package:

**Committee members:** Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden and Ranking Member Mike Crapo, House Ways and Means Committee Chair Richard Neal and Ranking Member Kevin Brady and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Frank Pallone and Ranking Member Cathy McMorris Rodgers for their support of people with mood disorders by expanding access to peer support and House Veterans Affairs Committee Chair Mark Takano and Ranking Member Mike Bost joined by Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chair Jon Tester and Ranking Member Jerry Moran for their commitment to veterans and support to improve care by expanding access to peer support.

**Our policy champions:** Representatives Barbara Lee and Fred Upton joined by Senator Catherine Cortez Masto for improving access to peer support services through virtual programming. This initiative will allow peer-run mental health services to be expanded throughout the nation.

Senators Roy Blunt and Richard Blumenthal along with Representatives Scott Peters, Colin Allred, and Tracey Mann for their sponsorship of the Veterans Peer Specialist Act (HR 4575/SS 2386).

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**The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)** is a leading peer-focused mental health organization whose mission is “to improve the lives of people living with mood disorders.” DBSA national supports more than 500 support groups and over 200 local affiliate chapters, DBSA reaches over four million individuals with support, educational resources, and tools to help individuals living with mood disorders lead productive and fulfilling lives. Additionally, through our advocacy efforts we amplify peers’ voices and work towards systemic change in the delivery of mental health care.

For more information, please visit [www.DBSAlliance.org](http://www.DBSAlliance.org) or call (800) 826-3632.