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APA Applauds House Passage of H.R. 20

“House Moves to Better Postpartum Care to New Mothers and Their Families”

Arlington, Va. – The American Psychiatric Association (APA) today applauds the passage of legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives promoting research and providing grants for the appropriate care and treatment of postpartum depression (PPD) and postpartum psychosis. The Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act, H.R. 20, sponsored by Representative Bobby Rush (D-Ill.) would significantly improve the guidelines for diagnosing and treating postpartum depression and related disorders.

In addition to improving research, resource coordination, and services available for postpartum disorders, H.R. 20 would establish a crucial funding mechanism for establishing and operating systems of care for treating postpartum depression and psychosis. The legislation also improves the delivery of care through inpatient and outpatient treatment services, screenings, and case management services.

"The APA praises the commitment and leadership of Rep. Bobby Rush to improving the care of women suffering from postpartum psychiatric disorders," said Nada Stotland, M.D., APA president-elect. "H.R. 20 addresses very real mental illnesses that cause anguish to tens of thousands of new mothers every year. The APA is very pleased to see Rep. Rush leading the charge in Congress to provide better care to new mothers and their families."

Stotland, who has testified before Congress on the issue of PPD and related psychoses, also indicated that the type of clinical depression that may occur after childbirth can be an agonizing and disabling disorder impacting the general and mental health of the mother as well as the entire family.

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About the American Psychiatric Association:

The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society whose more than 37,000 physician members specialize in diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at www.psych.org and www.HealthyMinds.org.