

**\* \* \* MEDIA ADVISORY \* \* \***

## **Nineteen State and Local Psychiatric Groups Urge State Insurance Commissioners to Reject Proposed Health Insurance Merger**

**WHAT:** Nineteen American Psychiatric Association (APA) District Branches/State Associations have joined with the APA, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians and others in expressing concern about the proposed health insurance industry mergers that would leave the vast majority of health care administration in the United States to three major insurers. This would eliminate consumer choice and encourage insurers to raise prices and reduce quality of care in most markets. Individuals with mental illness, including substance use disorder, are uniquely affected by the impact of these potential mergers

**WHEN:** Letters are being sent Sept. 24 to insurance commissioners and state attorneys general in 15 states.

Arizona  
California  
-Orange County  
-San Diego  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
Florida  
Georgia  
Illinois  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Mississippi  
New York  
-New York City  
-Brooklyn  
Ohio  
Washington, D.C.  
Wisconsin

**WHO:** Presidents and Executive Directors of APA District Branches and State Associations

**MORE**

**INFORMATION:** Contact APA at [press@psych.org](mailto:press@psych.org) or 703-907-8640.  
See the [letter from APA to the Department of Justice](#) and Federal Trade Commission expressing concern over the proposed insurance industry mergers.

Contact information for the state groups can be found [here](#).

American Psychiatric Association is a medical specialty society whose more than 36,000 physician members specialize in diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at [www.psychiatry.org](http://www.psychiatry.org). ###

