

August 27, 2012

The Honorable Erin Conaton
Under Secretary of Defense
for Personnel and Readiness
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Re: Citizen Soldier Support Program (CSSP)

Dear Secretary Conaton,

Please don't let CSSP die.

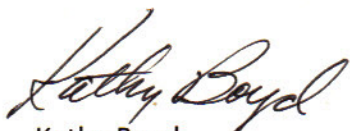
As you know, CSSP has been in existence since 2005. In 2007, its National Advisory Council directed CSSP to develop and implement a capacity-building initiative to strengthen community support for Service Members and their Families, focusing on increasing geographic and financial access to deployment and post-deployment related behavioral health services, especially for those in rural, frontier and underserved areas. As a result, CSSP is uniquely positioned to bridge civilian health provider resources with DoD and VA resources through cost effective, scalable and replicable programs.

Backed by its tremendous resources at UNC, the VA, DMDC and an ever-growing network of key partners and with \$1.5 million as bridge to the POM, CSSP will more extensively:

- Fill the critical need of informing communities where demand will be placed upon civilian and military systems through their integrated systems approach and the CSSP Data Center <http://www.unc.edu/cssp/datacenter/>, targeting areas for recruitment, training, TRICARE enrollment and registration in a national, searchable licensed provider database www.warwithin.org
- Provide free Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits to civilian and other providers through <http://www.aheconnect.com/citizensoldier/> and continue their grind-it-out, "retail level" work, increasing capacity by ensuring CSSP products are distributed nationally so that there are three providers who understand the issues within 30 minutes of every Service Member and their loved ones.

We believe there should be no wrong door in any community to which military members, veterans and those who care about and for them can turn for the right help at the right time. CSSP is vital to building tens of thousands of such doors.

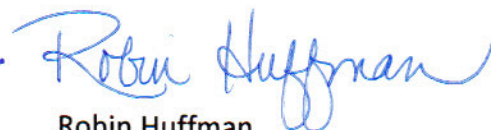
Sincerely,



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