



**For Immediate Release**

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**Florida Senate Passes Budget that Reinforces Commitment to Behavioral Health**  
*~FBHA expresses gratitude on behalf of thousands of Floridians struggling with  
mental health and substance use~~*

**Tallahassee, Fla.** –The Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA) applauds Florida Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Senate Appropriations Chairman Doug Broxson and Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Chairwoman Gayle Harrell, as well as the entire Senate, for funding community mental health and substance use disorder services in the Senate Budget which passed earlier today.

**Please feel free to use this statement by FBHA President and CEO Melanie Brown-Woofter.**

“On behalf of FBHA’s community behavioral health provider members and over 750,000 Floridians we serve, we are deeply grateful to the Florida Senate for passing a budget that offers families hope and services.

“For the first time in over 20 years, the Florida Senate has provided a substantial Medicaid rate increase for behavioral health services in their budget. The Senate is also investing an additional 34 million dollars into the community substance use and mental health system of care aimed at increasing access to crisis services, providing an immediate impact for thousands of Floridians across the state.

“The FBHA is beyond thankful that the Senate has committed over 60 million additional dollars to community initiatives, giving behavioral health care providers necessary resources to better serve their clients, and offering individuals living with mental illness and substance use disorders a lifeline to a resilient future. “

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