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The Florida Behavioral Health Association Congratulates the Florida Legislature for Passing HB 7021

Tallahassee, **Fla.** – The Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA) applauds Representative Maney, Representative Traci Koster, Senator Erin Grall, the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate for their steadfast commitment to Florida's mental health and substance use disorder community by unanimously passing <u>House Bill (HB) 7021</u>.

"Under the incredible leadership of Representative Patt Maney, who has spearheaded this initiative for over four years, in partnership with Representative Traci Koster and Senator Erin Grall, families across Florida will benefit from HB 7021," **said FBHA President and CEO Melanie Brown-Woofter.** "The bill will enhance access to mental health and substance use disorder crisis services in Florida's communities and will provide flexibility for courts to better meet individuals' needs, ultimately protecting individuals and families. This is a huge win for Florida's community behavioral health providers, and we are grateful to Representative Patt Maney for being the champion for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis."

Brown-Woofter continued, "On behalf of the nearly 70 community mental health and substance use disorder providers and over half a million Floridians FBHA represents, we thank them for championing HB7021, which invests \$50 million towards improving and expanding services offered through the Baker and Marchman Acts."

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The Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA) is a non-profit organization that provides statewide leadership on behavioral health policy and practice. FBHA supports member agencies offering services to those in need of mental health and substance use disorder assistance and support. Its members include a broad range of provider types, ranging from small specialty organizations to comprehensive treatment organizations with multiple locations within a geographic region. For more information, please visit Floridabha.org.