

June 30, 2025

## To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Health Enhancement Research Organization (HERO), I am pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for your proposed convening initiative focused on the broad adoption of **TOP Match**, a PCORI-validated behavioral health referral system, and its integration into **Express Access**, the NIH-funded marketplace platform.

HERO is the nation's leading nonprofit coalition uniting employers to advance workplace health, well-being, and performance through research, best practices, and policy influence. Behavioral health access remains a significant challenge across the U.S. healthcare system—characterized by long wait times, provider mismatches, and a lack of infrastructure for evidence-based referrals. These inefficiencies not only diminish treatment effectiveness but also heighten costs to employers and contribute to stigma, absenteeism, and workforce disengagement (e.g., NIH Study, PCORI Study).

We believe **TOP Match** directly addresses these shortcomings. By leveraging data-driven matching to connect patients with behavioral health providers experienced in treating similar conditions, TOP Match has demonstrated a fivefold increase in patients returning to full health. Coupled with its integration into **Express Access**, this solution promises a scalable, cost-effective, patient-centered enhancement to care delivery—one that can measurably support workforce well-being and resilience.

Your planned convening is exceptionally timely. By bringing together HR leaders, benefits managers, health plans, EAP (Employee Assistance Program) providers, and patient advocates, the initiative will foster a vital dialogue on aligning employer benefit strategies with implementation realities. This event offers a unique opportunity to explore onboarding pathways, leverage provider networks, and co-create a roadmap for systemic adoption.

HERO is eager to contribute our organizational expertise and employer insight to these discussions. We look forward to:

- Helping frame alignment between TOP Match and employer benefit and provider strategies
- Identifying implementation challenges and opportunities
- Co-creating actionable steps to facilitate adoption across diverse employer settings

We are convinced that this convening will catalyze wider adoption of evidence-based behavioral health solutions—advancing both the science and practice of workforce wellness.

HERO enthusiastically supports your efforts and looks forward to collaborating, learning from fellow stakeholders, and contributing to meaningful progress in behavioral health care delivery.

Sincerely,

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