



## **Global Loneliness Awareness Week: June 12-18**

### **Social Isolation and Loneliness Experts Urge Congress to Address a Silent Public Health Crisis**

*Andrew MacPherson and Edward Garcia, Healthcare Policy Experts Specializing in Mental Health, Social Isolation and Loneliness, Join Policymakers and Leading Healthcare Experts During Global Loneliness Awareness Week to Offer Insights While Outlining Specific Steps for Congress to Immediately Enact to Combat the Crisis*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 13, 2023)** – A month after history was made with the first ever U.S. Surgeon General Advisory on [Social Isolation and Loneliness](#), policymakers and cross sector leaders convene in Washington, D.C. this week during [Global Loneliness Awareness Week 2023](#), an annual week-long public awareness campaign.

[Andrew MacPherson](#), the Founder and Board Chair of the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness (CESIL), and [Edward Garcia III](#), Founder and Board Chair of the Foundation for Social Connection (F4SC) and Board Vice-Chair of the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness will join other healthcare leaders, policymakers and other leading experts from related cross section of issues advocating for bipartisan steps Congress take to address this crisis.

**“There is already a silent public health crisis brewing across America that started well before the pandemic, only to be worsened by it, and continues today,”** said Andrew MacPherson, healthcare policy expert and managing partner of [Healthsperien](#), LLC, a Washington, D.C.-based policy and healthcare consulting firm focused on strategic, regulatory, legislative, and implementation issues. **“The costs to this crisis are endless. Tens of millions of Americans of all ages suffer from the effects of social isolation and loneliness at significant costs. The lack of social connection is associated with a greater risk of cardiovascular disease, dementia, stroke, impaired immunity, and even premature death. Additionally, it impacts the U.S. economy with studies showing social isolation and loneliness cost our country as much as \$406 billion a year and Medicare \$6.7 billion annually.”**

In urging Congress to act to combat this growing national healthcare crisis, MacPherson penned a [guest commentary piece](#) in The Messenger while The Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness, with support from Healthsperien, spearheaded [a Congressional letter](#) with over 60 national and regional organizations -- representing consumers, patients, tech innovators, providers, and more -- imploring Congress to enact federal policy solutions. MacPherson and CESIL Executive Director Jillian Racoosin are taking part in a Capitol Hill event, [Connections at the Capitol: Discussions](#)



[on Loneliness, Isolation, and the Path Forward](#) today, June 13<sup>th</sup> featuring U.S. Senators Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Tina Smith (D-MN) exploring the ways to address this crisis.

**“Congress can no longer afford to ignore this silent healthcare crisis,”** said Edward Garcia III, healthcare policy expert and partner at Healthsperien, LLC, a Washington, D.C.-based policy and healthcare consulting firm focused on strategic, regulatory, legislative, and implementation issues. **“There are easy and impactful steps Congress can take to address social isolation and loneliness. Enacting federal bipartisan legislation to both create a special task force and establish braided funding opportunities in the Medicaid program to empower state and local governments to implement interventions that foster social connection across sectors, while also removing archaic federal and state barriers that impede access to mental and behavior health services through telehealth and remote health services – all will go a long way to help and support those suffering from social isolation and loneliness.”**

**“Fortunately there is hope – and the private sector has already started to take action,”** said Jillian Racoosin, Executive Director of the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness and the Foundation for Social Connection. **“To tackle this crisis, we have launched the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness to convene diverse national and regional organizations – including health care payors, providers, consumers, employers and entrepreneurs, and academic voices – to bring awareness to the problem and develop and advocate for solutions to advance social connection. In addition, we founded the Foundation for Social Connection, which has brought leading scientists in the field together to look at current research and form a framework to serve as a roadmap to help individuals, communities, and society become more connected and less socially isolated and lonely.”**

**For more information on Global Loneliness Awareness Week and/or to speak with MacPherson and/or Garcia, please contact Kristofer Eisenla at [kristofer@lunaeisenla.com](mailto:kristofer@lunaeisenla.com)**

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The Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness (CESIL) brings together a diverse set of national organizations including consumer groups, health plans, health care providers, technology innovators, patient advocates and more to develop and advocate for federal policy solutions to address the crisis of social isolation and loneliness. For more information, please visit: [endsocialisolation.org](http://endsocialisolation.org)

#### **About Healthsperien**

Healthsperien, LLC is a nationally recognized, Washington, D.C. – based policy and health care consulting firm focused on strategic, regulatory, legislative, and implementation issues. We are focused on the acceleration of responsible and sustainable health care system innovation and transformation to improve health outcomes for all, especially the most vulnerable. Our team of experts specializes in payment and delivery models, regulatory issues facing Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial payers, market & economic analysis, and emerging trends in value-based payment. To learn more, visit <https://healthsperien.com/>.