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The HEAL Act Supports Families Affected by Opioids
Parents as Teachers applauds bipartisan bill that keeps families intact

St. Louis, MO (June 12, 2018) In response to the Senate Finance Committee mark-up of Helping to End Addiction and Lessen (HEAL) Substance Use Disorders Act 2018 Constance Gully, president and chief executive officer for Parents as Teachers offered the following statement:

“We thank Senators Hatch and Wyden for their leadership and bipartisanship in crafting the HEAL Act. If enacted, it will allow states to put families first when substance abuse treatment is needed by a parent. Parents as Teachers knows how critically important the parent-child bond is and through our national network of home visiting programs, we help thousands of families, including those who struggle with opioid addiction. Through the HEAL Act, families can remain together when a parent needs treatment and they may also receive counseling, referrals and other support such as home visiting to support family bonding during the recovery process. Because the early childhood period is so critical to the optimal growth and learning of children, and a child is often a catalyst that encourages parents to change their lives, we encourage the Senate to take final action and make the HEAL Act law so that more families can receive the services and support they need.”

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About Parents as Teachers
Parents as Teachers builds strong communities, thriving families and children that are healthy, safe and ready to learn by matching parents and caregivers with trained professionals during a child’s earliest years in life, from pregnancy through kindergarten. Parents as Teachers internationally recognized evidence-based home visiting model is backed by 35 years of research with proven outcomes for children and families and currently serves 121,000 families in 50 U.S. states, 115 Tribal organizations, five other countries and one U.S. territory. Parents as Teachers is headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. Parents as Teachers affiliates operate in various settings, including health departments, hospitals, schools, faith-based and non-profit organizations. For more information, visit www.parentsasteachers.org or Twitter @NatlPAT.