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February 12, 2015

Release No. 15-

## **APA Statements on President Obama Signing into Law the Clay Hunt SAV Act**

**ARLINGTON, Va. (Feb. 12, 2015)** – Today the American Psychiatric Association (APA) released the following statements from APA President Paul Summergrad, M.D., and CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A., regarding the signing of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act:

“Today is a more hopeful day for America’s veterans,” said American Psychiatric Association President Paul Summergrad, M.D. “The brave men and women who served our country have sacrificed so much for us, and the Clay Hunt SAV Act is one way we can begin to repay them by improving much-needed access to mental health care and to reduce the tragedy of veteran suicides. We will now focus our attention to ensure the provisions of the Clay Hunt SAV Act are carried out. We have no more important obligation.”

“The APA is proud to have worked alongside veterans groups like the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America to push for this new law,” said APA CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A. “We are committed to providing our veterans with the quality mental health care they deserve, and the Clay Hunt SAV Act is an important step forward in improving their access to care.”

For more information on the bill, see the February 3 [release on Senate passage of the Clay Hunt Act](#).

The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society whose physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at [www.psychiatry.org](http://www.psychiatry.org).