EARN Webinar:
Supporting Employee Mental Health and Wellbeing:
The Importance of an Individualized Approach
May 18, 2022

Transcript of Introduction from Secretary Marty Walsh

Video Link

MARTY WALSH: Good afternoon, everyone. I appreciate the opportunity to address you today on a topic close to my heart. And I want to thank my colleagues at the Office of Disability Employment Policy and EARN for hosting this important conversation.

Everyone, at some point in their life, must deal with mental health. It's part of being human. When I needed treatment for alcoholism in my 20s, I had access to the care I needed through my union. And I benefited from the compassion of my supervisors and colleagues.

I learned firsthand that a supportive environment can make all the difference. Right now, more people need support. The pandemic increased anxiety, depression and substance use disorder all across our country. So, President Biden has laid out a whole government plan to address this mental health crisis. And at the Department of Labor, we take this issue to heart. And we're all in.

We're strengthening enforcement of parity laws for mental health coverage, so people can get the care that they need. We're also educating employers and workers alike about steps they can take to foster mental health friendly workplaces. Our campaign is called, "Mental Health at Work, What Can I Do?"

And the truth is everyone can do something to create a supportive culture. We have a toolkit you can use to help. Now more than ever, we all benefit from flexible supportive workplace practices that promote good mental health. As Secretary of Labor, I’m working to make sure that everyone can continue to benefit from these practices.

It's not only good for workers, it's good for businesses and good for America. I hope you'll join me in this pursuit. Because mental health is health period. We all have a role to play. Thank you.

For More Information Visit www.AskEARN.org