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**Former Ohio Governor Kasich, Meadows Institute President & CEO
Keller Discuss Historic Federal Investments in Mental Health
*Latest Installment of Conversation Series Airs 12:30 p.m. Thursday, February 9***

AUSTIN – Former Ohio Governor John Kasich and Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute President and CEO Andy Keller, PhD, discussed historic investments in mental health from the 117th U.S. Congress, including the 2022 Federal Omnibus Appropriation Bill, during the latest episode of their ongoing Conversation Series on Facebook. The omnibus legislation alone, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden in December, included many mental health-related policy items supported by the Meadows Institute.

“There was a consensus to do more, and there was a major round of investments and billions of additional dollars in mental health,” Keller said.

Initiatives—some of which were featured in Tuesday’s State of the Union address—included funding to further implement the 9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, pediatric mental health access, parity enforcement, and numerous grant programs that will significantly improve mental health care in the United States.

Governor Kasich said the investments in mental health care reflected a growing understanding about the importance of mental health in America.

“There has been a growing recognition that we have a mental health crisis in this country,” Governor Kasich said. “Now, all of a sudden, somebody heard ... somebody listened.”

They also discussed the new Congress, which now has the House under Republican leadership and the Senate remaining with the Democrats, each by small margins. Mental health care, however, has consistently been a bipartisan issue, they agreed.

“One thing I find with both Democrats and Republicans is everyone wants accountability, and everyone cares about mental health,” Keller said.

The episode will air starting at 12:30 p.m. CT on Thursday at <https://facebook.com/events/s/the-opportunity-is-right-now-n/905855833901183/>. Previous episodes are available [here](#).

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About Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Launched in 2014, the Meadows Institute helps Texas legislators, state officials, members of the judiciary, and local, state, and national leaders identify equitable systemic solutions to mental health needs, and has become Texas’s most trusted source for data-driven mental health policy. The Meadows Institute is making a significant impact in multiple areas, helping Texas and national leaders shift the focus of new investments toward early intervention, addressing the mental health crisis in our jails and emergency rooms, and helping all people with mental health needs recover and be well. Learn more at mmhpi.org.

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