

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Request for Information Regarding the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

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Request for Information Regarding the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

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FL-Judith Rosenthal

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## General Comment

I am an employee of the only licensed in home detox program for alcohol and substance abuse in the state of florida. This program provides detox and counseling in the privacy of one's own home, encouraging support from family members, one on one counseling and nursing care, using medications for comfort and the ability to work, take care of the family, and learn to live in the real world without the use of drugs or alcohol. This bill must encourage insurance companies to only use licensed programs in their state. If there are new and innovative programs in substance abuse available they must also be licensed and recognized. Addiction counseling must be given by those licensed and educated in addiction. This type of counseling is a specialization, Physicians cannot and should not be allowed to call themselves Addiction Counselors. Programs chosen by the patients need not be recommended by their physician. State agencies and insurance companies must accept the most COST EFFECTIVE PROGRAM AND THAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN IN PATIENT CARE.. As we have seen addiction has become a business and this bill can provide the opportunity for new and innovative programs to be used to save lives and save money. Insurance companies must use addiction specialists for reports and reviews regarding

coverage. ADDICTION IS A MENTAL AS WELL AS A PHYSICAL DISEASE AND MUST BE TREATED AS SUCH.