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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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General Comment

Who are we kidding? The insurance companies keep working around parity. My son is covered under his father's policy and he can only be seen 20 times in a year by his mental health provider. My son is bi-polar, ADHD, and a teenager! If things are going good seeing his therapist once a week is a must and seeing the psychiatrist once a month has to happen. Add that up...that's 60 mental health visits and that's if things are going good and often they aren't. My son is also considered to have a dual diagnosis as he started using drugs to deal with his mental health issues. The insurance company approved 30 days of inpatient treatment and that's a lifetime limit so when he relapsed after four months we went seeking resources and guess what..there are none if you are middle income america. I make \$35,000 a year and I am good at budgeting and getting us through but when your savings are gone and you've cashed in your retirement then how do you get treatment for your child? Thank God for providers who work with us and a decent prescription plan or we'd be staying at the mission. This shouldn't be happening in America! I only have myself and my son but think of those families that make less but aren't eligible for medicaid what happens to them and to their kids? They go without and no one seems to understand why folks are giving up. It used to be that there were

3 categories of income low, middle, upper. Now we have lowest, lower, low, and rich. I could go on for hours as I work in the Human Services field and I see it every day. People fighting to stay afloat, people who have been doing life right, working, caring for their kids, providing insurance and then a mental health or addiction issue happens and the bottom falls out of their bucket. My father always said that going to college and getting an education would make life better...it has but it is no longer a guarantee for financial security especially if you have any of the issues we're talking about.