

**From:** Pam Pigg [mailto:ppigg@charter.net]

**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2009 10:32 PM

**To:** EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA

**Subject:** Private disability offer by employer differs for Mental Health

I have bipolar II. Approximately a year ago, I was not able to work. I took a 10 week disability leave so that I could heal. My doctor added some meds and we finally got to the place where I could go back to work. I will say that after two weeks, I did receive disability benefits. (Our plan offers 50% of salary, but you can buy up to 70%). I was 51 when I started working there and thought it might be a good idea, never thinking I would need it for bipolar. I went back to work and within 7 weeks, I was right back where I started and couldn't work. The private disability offered by work paid the 70% and I was very fortunate that they hire a group that helps you with obtaining social security. That is when I found out that the private disability company will only supplement social security for two years because it is related to mental illness. There is no other illness to my knowlege that they have this restriction for. I feel it is total unfair that I am penalized because I have bipolar.

The difference in the amount of money will be approximate 442.00 a month. Is parity covered by this? Is there anything I can do to help them to understand that this is a disorder just like any other disorder.

I would appreciate your feed back and would be happy to work as an advocate for private disability discriminating against people with mental health.

Thank you,

Pamela Pigg  
314-991-6862