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Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2010 12:20 PM

To: EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA

Subject: Comment in support of RIN 1210-AB30

April 24, 2010

I am writing to support the interim final rule under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (RIN 1210-AB30).

I support the strong rule that would forbid insurance companies from charging higher copayments, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses for mental health treatment than they would for other physical health care. Thank you for ensuring that mental health care and physical health care coverage are included in a single deductible. Mental illness is not a behavioral issue, it is a medical issue with causes found in the structure of the brain, the chemical composition, and the functioning of the brain. The mentally ill are not "bad folks", they are "sick" in the medical sense.

Sincerely,

MaryAlice Bates