PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Docket: IRS-2009-0008
Request for Information for Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

Comment On: IRS-2009-0008-0120
Interim Final Rules Under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

Document: IRS-2009-0008-0123
Comment on FR Doc # 2010-02167

Submitter Information

Name: Marsha Virginia Hammond
Address: Asheville, NC. 28806
Email:
Submitter's Representative: Heath Shuler
Organization: Licensed Psychologist

General Comment

As a doctoral level psychologist whom treats people w/ Severe Persistent Mental Illnesses, the passage of federal mental health parity is an absolute necessity.

In North Carolina, in 2009, for instance, BCBSNC was allowed to OPT OUT of mental health parity by the NC State Legislature due to their undue influence on the NC State Legislature. BCBSNC is the largest private insurer in the state of NC. BCBSNC is supposedly monitored by the NC State Legislature.

Thus, very obviously, until there is PARITY in terms of Utilization Review and what the insurance company can DO versus what they SAY----- little to no progress will be made as regarding mental health parity. Undue influence will continue to trump any efforts to obtain mental health parity.

Marsha V. Hammond, PhD: Clinical Health PsychologyNC Licensed Psychologist