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.

Under the current structure, many who are gifted and capable of contributing much to our society are either denied coverage, or allowed only limited coverage. It has been medically proven that mental illness is as serious as any other physical illness and should be treated in exactly the same manner, without distinction.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Anne (Beth) Mayo