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. As a family physician I have seen the impact of the lack of parity in mental health services, an impact which is only increasing in this time of economic hardship and stress.

Thank you for ensuring that mental health care and physical health care coverage are included in a single deductible.

Sincerely,

Karin Hemmingsen