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.

Frequently, those needing ongoing therapy have already found themselves in financially difficult situations. Fighting with insurance companies to pay for more than a few starter sessions just adds to the stress of dealing with mental health problems!

We need to emphasize mental and emotional health as the foundation of physical health. They are all connected. It behooves our society to cover all elements, and not discriminate against certain ailments.

Sincerely,

Misty Conway