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).

It is time that we stop treating mental health as a separate health issue. Doing so merely perpetuates the stigma against those with mental health issues, and denies the mounting evidence that physical and mental health are linked to everyone's over-all well being.

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.

Sincerely,

Ruth Feiertag