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. In addition, the insurance companies must remove limits on the length of treatment; this decision CANNOT be left in the hands of anyone other than the therapist and the patient. There is NO way for an outsider such as an insurance company to determine how much treatment is needed for it to be effective. Thank you for ensuring that mental health care and physical health care coverage are included in a single deductible.

Sincerely,

Brenda Russell