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.

Mental health issues are similar to chronic illnesses like diabetes, and can require lifelong medication. Why would mental illness treatments be singled out for higher costs than treatments for any other type of illness? It's time that America recognize the existence and treatable nature of mental illnesses on a par with any other health issues.

Sincerely,

Dina Young