April 24, 2010

I have been a mental health nurse for 40 years and a professor of nursing for 25 years, so I have an awareness of mental issues and how insurance companies do or do not cover patients with these illnesses. 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.

Sincerely,

Pamela Parlocha