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 physical health care. Mental health is just as important as physical health for people to be able to be productive members of society. With proper treatment most people suffering from mental health problems can recover completely, and this treatment should not be prohibitively expensive. Thank you for ensuring that mental health care and physical health care coverage are included in a single deductible.

Sincerely,

Catharina Howard