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From: kathleenoneillvt@hotmail.com
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Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 9:06 AM
To: EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA
Subject: Comment in support of RIN 1210-AB30

April 26, 2010

Mental health: it's all in your head. Which is the worst, because it affects every minute of every day and interferes with the personal bonds and relationships that all healthy people rely on to function in the real world. No one who has experienced significant mental health problems directly or vicariously (through friends or family), would deny they are in many ways WORSE than physical ailments. Add in the effects of suicide and substance abuse (often an attempt at self medication), and the idea that it is all right for there to be HIGHER barriers to receiving mental health treatment than care for physical ailments is just plain... crazy!

That's why 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,

Kathleen O'Neill
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