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From: ojdart@fastmail.fm [<mailto:ojdart@fastmail.fm>]

Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 2:11 PM

To: EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA

Subject: Comment in support of RIN 1210-AB30

April 26, 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.

The stigma of mental health issues is exacerbated by a different coverage, as though a mental ailment is a personal failing. This keeps many who need the help from seeking it, which is worsened when they take out their illness on others in abuse and violence, which then expands the problem.

That may increase the coffers of insurers for these added problems, but only makes the health of the nation worse.

Sincerely,

Joan Lobell  
5107 Whiteford Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21212