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From: hhh@pobox.com [<mailto:hhh@pobox.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 2:15 PM  
To: EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA  
Subject: Comment in support of RIN 1210-AB30

April 28, 2010

Any disparity in the accessibility or treatment of mental health issues as compared to physical health problems is an abhorrent form of archaic discrimination. To charge more for mental health care than physical/surgical health care targets some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Many with serious mental disabilities cannot advocate for themselves. They are also the least likely to be able to pay the higher costs of the care they deserve.

Please take this concern seriously. There should be no line drawn in the sand between physical and mental health. If someone is suffering from illness they need medical attention and support. Whether that illness be on one's foot or in his/her ability to function peacefully in life is beside the point. I cannot believe how behind the times the current unfair insurance practice is.

I am thus 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,

Heather Serice  
2532 w. 109th pl  
chicago, IL 60655