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Request for Information Regarding the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

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Request for Information Regarding the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

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General Comment

Individual and small group policies should not be excluded. If we are going to have parity, it should apply across the board just like any other illness. The 190 day lifetime maximum for in patient mental health care under Medicare needs to be revised to state coverage equal to any other illness. Medicaid needs to be abolished. It is discriminatory and its rate of reimbursement is low and providers do not want medicaid patients. Medicaid has a stigma attached to it that connotates this is for poor people. Every state has their own set of Medicaid rules and when a patient crosses their state line to get health care, it is extremely hard to get payment from their home state medicaid. Just give everyone universal health care without all the red tape and treat everyone and every illness equally. Mental illness is a disease of the mind and should be treated like any other disease. Insurance companies should be required to comply with coverage or find another line of work. We must integrate physical and mental health. People should be able to get local treatment and know they have insurance coverage that will be accepted...Medicaid does not allow this. Also, coverage should not be attached to jobs nor have any age requirements or exclusions.

Emma & Bob Thorne