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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

I am a severe mental health patient presenting this comment for thought and support through issues extremely disturbing to me that two totally different diseases of Mental Health and Addition are constantly "lumped together" with just a single digit code number denoting the difference in the diagnosis. As a society constantly in crisis, it is a known factor that both diseases are frowned upon and carry many negative condentations. If you have a mental health issue, you are referred to as a retard, have bats in the belfry, menace to society, and one of my personal favorites, a BUM. If you are unlucky enough to be an addict, again the same descriptions fit.

We must educate the masses and raise the awarness level that these are diseases, not something that were designed and implemented for sympathy, great financial gain, or "a free ride" in society.

We did not choose to inherit these demoralizing and destructive deficits. Most Addicts have mental health illnesses, but all mental health patients are not addicts. We struggle through each and everyday making gallant attempts to join or rejoin the Main-stream American way of life.

Our diseases need to be viewed as life and death struggles of which not one single person should have to endure the burden of.

Perhaps if these two totally different diseases were viewed and addressed by our government differently, than maybe the black cloud of ignorance and prejudice would be lifted.

If, as a society, we would invest in more research for a deeper more meaningful and educated avenue by simply communicating with us, you would find out that we are everyday people just like you. Please don't judge us by our diseases, get to know us as people, friends, and neighbors.

Remember, as a society we don't judge the child in a wheel chair, the bed ridden women that can't breathe, or people affected by numerous other diseases, that are extremely debilitating.

Although mental health patients and addicts illnesses cannot be seen, touched, or fixed with a band-aid, believe me they do exist.