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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 clinical supervisor for intensive in-home services for youth at the Community Services Board in Prince William VA. About 6 years ago, a part-time therapist working for me told me about the amazing results she was getting treating her son's Asperger's Syndrome with neurofeedback (also known as EEG biofeedback, and more simply as "brain training"). I began researching the subject and was quickly fascinated by its potential for treating not only problems such as ADHD, depression and anxiety, but more intractable problems including traumatic brain injury, autism spectrum disorders, effects of prenatal drug exposure, PTSD, and a host of other problems. I have pursued training and purchased equipment, mostly at my own expense, although my agency is eager to expand this intervention when the budget allows, having been very impressed with the results I've gotten. This most promising intervention appears to have no downside except the expense -- most insurance does not reimburse for it. I have succeeded in getting Medicaid to cover it in our state as part of a comprehensive treatment regimen. I believe when insurance companies realize that neurofeedback reduces/eliminates the needs for many medications with much more positive outcomes, they will see the cost savings that can result to them.

I have been involved in or supervised the successful neurofeedback treatment of ADHD, anxiety, severe depression, intermittent explosive disorder, PTSD, OCD,

Asperger's, reactive attachment disorder, and substance abuse. I have been astonished at the results. You can find a great deal of research organized by disorders at <http://www.isnr.org/uploads/compbiblio.pdf> , which is compiled periodically by a professional at the University of Utah Medical School. I hope this will convince you that this is not a passing fancy, but a remarkable cutting edge intervention that merits recognition and coverage by standard health insurance contracts.

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