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

Comment On: EBSA-2009-0010-0001

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

Document: EBSA-2009-0010-DRAFT-0107

Comment on FR Doc # E9-9629

Submitter Information

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Organization: PA House or Representatives

General Comment

May 26, 2009

Alan D. Lebowitz, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Operations

Office of Health Plan Standards and Compliance

Assistance, Employee Benefits Security Administration

Room N-5653

U.S. Department of Labor

200 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20210

Attention: MHPAEA Comments

Dear Mr. Lebowitz,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Request for Information regarding the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

We in Pennsylvania were very involved in the debate leading to

enactment of the Federal Parity law. A major part of our involvement concerned the importance of securing protection for Pennsylvania's strong drug and alcohol addiction treatment laws. We wanted to ensure that as parity moved forward, no harm was done to state laws or provisions of state laws that provide better consumer protections.

After much debate in Congress, the Federal Parity law as enacted, clearly saves from pre-emption state laws that are more favorable to consumers.

Please ensure that the will of Congress in this regard is respected in any regulations regarding the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

Sincerely,

Gene DiGirolamo
State Representative
18th Legislative District

GD/ph

Attachments

EBSA-2009-0010-DRAFT-0107.1: Comment on FR Doc # E9-9629

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

18TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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May 26, 2009

Alan D. Lebowitz, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Operations
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene DiGirolamo".

Gene DiGirolamo
State Representative
18th Legislative District

GD/ph