

CONGRESSMAN PATRICK J. MURPHY  
EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
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May 28, 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

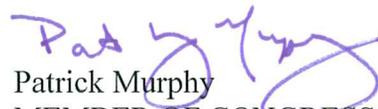
Dear Mr. Lebowitz:

The issue of protection of state laws more favorable to consumers was fully debated and settled during the course of enactment of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

In fact, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 as finally enacted intentionally preserves state addiction treatment laws that are more favorable to consumers.

Please assure that regulations guiding implementation of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 give full effect to this decision and do nothing to cast doubt on the clear Congressional intent to preserve more favorable state laws.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick Murphy  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS