

From: cathiebuck@gmail.com [<mailto:cathiebuck@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2010 7:10 PM
To: EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA
Subject: Comment in support of RIN 1210-AB30

April 24, 2010

I am writing to support the interim final rule under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (RIN 1210-AB30).

I support the strong rule that would forbid insurance companies from charging higher co-payments, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses for mental health treatment than they would for other physical health care. Thank you for ensuring that mental health care and physical health care coverage are included in a single deductible.

People with mental health issues that go unaddressed often do not address any of their health care needs and if addictions are excluded as are now then physical health issues like diabetes and heart conditions are exhibited much earlier in life. Often if access to treatment was available many of these issues would have been preventable or at least 10-20 years out as a medical problem.

I worked 14 years in a program for homeless men and I saw this first hand. Thank you for supporting these reforms.

Sincerely,

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