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From: jallan32@att.net [<mailto:jallan32@att.net>]

Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2010 7:49 AM

To: EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA

Subject: Comment in support of RIN 1210-AB30

April 25, 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 copayments, 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.

As a comment on the current status, some might say facetiously that certain members of the political or religious leadership want to deny mental health treatment in order to avoid losing votes or church members when patients have their anxieties relieved.

But more seriously, the discrepancy probably results from the feeling that mental problems are easier to "fake" to collect disability payments than physical illnesses. It seems hard to believe that a significant number of people would take on the social, employment, and possible legal stigma for themselves for such a trivial gain.

Just ask the family of Senator Thomas Eagleton, for one.

Sincerely,

Allan Richardson  
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Jacksonville, FL 32207