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From: tahoebeth@gmail.com [<mailto:tahoebeth@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 12:08 AM
To: EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA
Subject: Comment in support of RIN 1210-AB30

April 26, 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).

An estimated 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older – about one in four adults (a total of approximately 58 million people)– suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. ONE THIRD of the Veterans returning from Iraq suffer from Mental illness!

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.

Data developed by the massive Global Burden of Disease study conducted by the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and Harvard University, reveal that mental illness, including suicide, accounts for over 15 percent of the burden of disease in countries such as the United States. This is more than the disease burden caused by all cancers.

Thank you for ensuring that mental health care and physical health care coverage are included in a single deductible.

Sincerely,

Beth Davidson
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