

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Docket: [IRS-2009-0008](#)

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

Comment On: [IRS-2009-0008-0001](#)

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

Document: [IRS-2009-0008-0094](#)

Comment on FR Doc # N/A

Submitter Information

Name: Melody D. Moore

Address:

Chapel Hill, NC,

Organization: Potential Unlimited Mentoring and Assessment

Government Agency Type: State

General Comment

Dear Gentleepersons:

I am writing in support of the position submitted to you by the National Association for Childrens Behavioral Health and as a citizen of the United States. As a long time public servant, mental health and education researcher, and former consulting advisor on U.S. Drug Policy research during General McCaffrey's watch, I have observed the costs of failure to provide sufficient insurance benefits for mental health and substance abuse assessment and treatment. In addition to the personal and family tragedy resulting from lack of parity of benefits, the social and financial burden imposed on the U.S. outweigh any costs associated with instituting parity.

Juvenile and adult correctional facility populations are inordinately composed of individuals with untreated mental health and substance abuse issues. The costs to society of criminal activity and loss of productivity of American citizens who suffer and act out because of mental health and substance abuse issues that cannot be addressed sufficiently under the current insurance benefit system is immeasurable.

The impact on families of the enormous pressures brought to bear by having a family member who has mental health or substance abuse issues contributes

heavily to the rise in absentee fathers and divorce within families impacted by these issues.

During the past few years, even as professional woman, in the middle of the socio-economic spectrum, I have personally faced the difficulty of meeting my own adopted child's needs resulting from abuse and neglect prior to adoption, due to the tremendous financial burden of providing mental health services and medications, along with meeting her special educational needs.

As stated by the association, "We are hopeful that Congress' intent to close the loopholes of the 1996 parity law will improve families' ability to access timely and appropriate mental and addiction treatment services as well as reduce cost-shifting from the private to the public sector." I humbly ask your support of parity legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody D. Moore