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Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2010 10:42 AM

To: EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA

Subject: Comment in support of RIN 1210-AB30

April 24, 2010

I am a psychiatrist 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. Every day I see many patients caught in the dilemma of needing to decide whether to receive treatment or not due to financial limitations imposed by their coverage. Untreated mental illness costs society far more than the cost of care due to lost employment and disability. Thank you for ensuring that mental health care and physical health care coverage are included in a single deductible.

Sincerely,

Mark Putnam