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Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2010 1:48 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 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.

I would also like to see parity among mental health professionals. It is time to acknowledge the training and contribution of licensed mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists. Allowing people to make a choice based on competence and suitability of care not from an arbitrary list of approved providers. As a licensed mental health counselor and marriage and family therapist with a PhD. and 35 years of experience, I am often required to refer medicare patients to a social worker with little or no experience.

Sincerely,

Amy Lew