

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** EBSA-2009-0010

The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

**Comment On:** EBSA-2009-0010-0409

Interim Final Rules Under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

**Document:** EBSA-2009-0010-DRAFT-0708

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## General Comment

"On behalf of NAMI Pinellas County, Florida, Inc. I am writing to submit comments on the Interim Final Rules under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and in doing so NAMI Pinellas County, Florida Inc. endorses the separate comments submitted by the Parity Implementation Coalition and the National Alliance on Mental Illness"

MHPAEA Requires Parity with Respect to Scope of Services and Makes Clear that the Parity Requirements Apply to Both Quantitative and Non-quantitative Treatment Limitations.

It is critical that mental health and substance abuse services be treated the same as any other medical/surgical treatment needed. Mental illness is a disorder of the brain--the primary organ in the body. Illnesses of the brain should be treated with urgency and should not be subjected to limitations for insurance coverage or for treatment services.