

May 23, 2009

To: Sen. Johnny Isakson

RE: Wellstone-Domenici Mental Health Parity & Addiction
Equity Act of 2008 &
Regulatory Guidance USCG-2007-27022
Page19157, II B Areas 1 and 4

I am a licensed counselor and certified biofeedback therapist who provides counseling and biofeedback services to those with headaches, anxiety, chronic pain syndrome and other conditions. Biofeedback & neurofeedback have been proven to help headaches, anxiety, ADHD and many other disorders, yet Georgia Medicaid and most insurers continue to deny coverage. This is a limitation of an effective and valid treatment for a mental health problem.

Based on legal reviews of the parity statute, parity regulations should require employers and insurance plans to pay for the same range and scope of services for Behavioral Treatments as they do for Medical and Surgical benefits. Today plans are more restrictive in how they review evidence based Mental Health and Substance Abuse treatments when compared to Medical Surgical treatments. This violates both the intent and the letter of the parity statute, and my colleagues and I hope that the regulations will clarify that this cannot continue.

Thank you for helping Georgians to access these much needed health care services.

Sincerely,

Denise Olive, LLC, MS, LPC, BCIAC
Dolive76@bellsouth.net