



September 17, 2009

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Longworth House Office Building, #1109
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Request to Sign Letter from Rep. Patrick Kennedy: Regulations to Implement the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act

On behalf of the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA), which represents the directors of public mental health authorities in counties throughout California, I am writing to urge you to sign an important letter Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) is circulating. The letter urges the secretaries of three federal departments to issue regulations needed to implement the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

In October 2008, Congress passed the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, which CMHDA supported. The Act is critical to ensuring that mental illnesses (including substance use disorders) are covered in health plans on the same terms and conditions as all other illnesses. The Act requires the U.S. Departments of Labor (DOL), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Treasury to issue regulations before January 1, 2010, the date the Act goes into effect.

It is essential the regulations are issued to avoid misinterpretation of the law and to ensure access to critical mental health and addiction services. Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) is circulating the attached sign-on letter, which will be sent to the Secretaries of the three departments responsible for issuing the regulations insisting they act quickly.

We urge you to sign Rep. Kennedy's letter, which must be completed by September 21. Thank you for protecting Californians' access to critical mental health services.

Patricia Ryan, Executive Director
California Mental Health Directors Association

Cc: The Honorable Patrick Kennedy

Attachment

CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
2125 19th Street, 2nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95818
TEL 916-556-3477 FAX 916-446-4519 www.cmhda.org



September 17, 2009

The Honorable George Miller
Rayburn House Office Building, #2205
Washington, DC 20515

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September 17, 2009

The Honorable Lois Capps
Longworth House Office Building, #1110
Washington, DC 20515

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September 17, 2009

The Honorable Linda Sanchez
Longworth House Office Building, #1222
Washington, DC 20515

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September 17, 2009

The Honorable Susan Davis
Longworth House Office Building, #1526
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Request to Sign Letter from Rep. Patrick Kennedy: Regulations to Implement the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act

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September 17, 2009

The Honorable Fortney Pete Stark
Cannon House Office Building, #239
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Request to Sign Letter from Rep. Patrick Kennedy: Regulations to Implement the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act

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September 17, 2009

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Cannon House Office Building, #205
Washington, DC 20515

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September 17, 2009

The Honorable Mike Thompson
Cannon House Office Building, #231
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Request to Sign Letter from Rep. Patrick Kennedy: Regulations to Implement the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act

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September 17, 2009

The Honorable Doris Matsui
Cannon House Office Building, #222
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Request to Sign Letter from Rep. Patrick Kennedy: Regulations to Implement the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act

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September 17, 2009

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Rayburn House Office Building, #2204
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Request to Sign Letter from Rep. Patrick Kennedy: Regulations to Implement the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act

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September 17, 2009

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
Cannon House Office Building, #312
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Request to Sign Letter from Rep. Patrick Kennedy: Regulations to Implement the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act

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September 17, 2009

The Honorable Lynn Woolsey
Rayburn House Office Building, #2263
Washington, DC 20515

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