

Mental Health Liaison Group

September 10, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Boehner, Leader Reid and Leader McConnell:

We are writing to express our support for the mental health and addiction parity compromise developed by House and Senate negotiators. We urge Congress to pass this important legislation before adjourning in September.

Congress has taken a major step forward in developing this thoughtful and balanced bipartisan legislation. We applaud the long, hard work engaged in by you and your colleagues in approving and reconciling the bipartisan House and Senate parity bills (H.R. 1424, S. 558). We urge Congress to take the last, most important step by passing this legislation.

Passage of the balanced and bipartisan mental health and addiction parity legislation would represent the fruition of many years of work by members of Congress, advocates, employer organizations and health plans to build on the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996. This broad and diverse coalition stands united in support of the parity compromise. Now, Congress has the chance to reach the goal of enacting this consensus legislation, before a new administration and a new Congress take office, and broader health policy issues begin demanding policymakers' time and attention.

We ask Congress to pass federal mental health and addiction parity legislation now.

Sincerely,

Active Minds, Inc.
ADAP Advocacy Association
Aetna
AFL-CIO
Alliance for Children and Families
Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness
America's Health Insurance Plans
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery
American Academy of Family Physicians

National organizations representing consumers, family members, advocates, professionals and providers

American Academy of Neurology Professional Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Children's Residential Centers
American Association of Pastoral Counselors
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association of Practicing Psychiatrists
American Association of Suicidology
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
American Benefits Council
American Counseling Association
American Dance Therapy Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Hospital Association
American Humane Association
American Jail Association
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Orthopsychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychotherapy Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Thoracic Society
Anxiety Disorders Association of America
Aspire of Western New York
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Association for Psychological Science
Association for the Advancement of Psychology
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association to Benefit Children
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals - US
Autism Society of America
Barbara Schneider Foundation
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Betty Ford Center

BlueCross BlueShield Association
Bradford Health Services
Brain Injury Association of America
Carter Center Mental Health Program
Center for Clinical Social Work/ABE
Center for Policy, Advocacy and Education, Mental Health Association of NYC
CENTERSTONE Child, Adolescent and Family Division (Nashville, TN)
Child and Family Guidance Center (Tacoma, WA)
Child Neurology Society
Child Welfare League of America
Children & Families First (Wilmington, DE)
Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty
Children's Hospital Boston
Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc. (Paramus, NJ)
Children's Defense Fund
Church Women United
Clinical Social Work Association
Clinical Social Work Guild 49
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council for Children with Behavior Disorders
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (New York, NY)
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
County of Santa Clara, CA
CT Chapter National Alliance Methadone Advocates
Cumberland Heights
Davis Y. Ja and Associates, Inc.
DePelchin Children's Center
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Easter Seals
Eating Disorder Hope
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
Emerge - Career Services (Minneapolis, MN)
Emergency Nurses Association
Empowered and Supporting Treatment of Eating Disorders (FEAST)
Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems
Epilepsy Foundation
Faces & Voices of Recovery
Families First
Families for Depression Awareness
Families USA
Family & Children First (Louisville, KY)
Family & Community Service of Delaware County (PA)
Family and Children's Center, Inc. (Mishawaka, IN)
Family Conservancy (Kansas City, KS)
Family Counseling Service (Aurora, IL)

Family Service Association (Langhorne, PA)
Family Service Association (Moreno Valley, CA)
Family Service Association of New Jersey
Family Service Centers, Inc. (Clearwater, FL)
Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge
Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin
Family Services, Inc. (North Charleston, SC)
Family Violence Prevention Fund
Family Voices
Federation of American Hospitals
Feeling Blue Suicide Prevention Council
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Hazelden Foundation
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
Human Rights Campaign
Jewish Family Service of Bergen County, Inc. (NJ)
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Jewish Family Services, Inc. (Milwaukee, WI)
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Johnson Institute
Judson Center (Royal Oak, MI)
Kids Hope United
Kids Project
Kristin Brooks Hope Center
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Legal Action Center
LifeSpan, Inc. (Hamilton, OH)
Light For Life Foundation International
McShin Foundation
Mental Health America
Methodist Home for Children (Philadelphia, PA)
Metropolitan Family Service (Portland, OR)
Metropolitan Family Services (Chicago, IL)
Minnesota Council of Child Caring Agencies
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
Missouri Recovery Network
NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National African-American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Affective Disorders
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Association for Children of Alcoholics
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association for the Dually Diagnosed

National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of Counties
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Health Underwriters
National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Coalition of Mental Health Consumer/Survivor Organizations
National Coalition of Mental Health Professionals and Consumers
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
National Council on Family Relations
National Council on Independent Living
National Council on Problem Gambling
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Down Syndrome Society
National Eating Disorders Association
National Education Association
National Empowerment Center
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
National Foundation for Mental Health
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National Mental Health Awareness Campaign
National Organization of People of Color Against Suicide
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Physicians Alliance
National Research Center for Women & Families
National Respite Coalition
National Retail Federation
National Spinal Cord Injury Association
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
Neighborhood House, Inc. (Columbus, OH)
New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families
NISH
Northamerican Association of Masters in Psychology
Obsessive Compulsive Foundation
Our Family Services (Tucson, AZ)
PACER Center
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Pennsylvania Educational Network for Eating Disorders

Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office
Remuda Ranch
Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders
RiverzEdge Arts Project (Woonsocket, RI)
Rogers Behavioral Health System, Inc.
Rogers Memorial Hospital
Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America
School Social Work Association of America
Shaken Baby Alliance
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Personality Assessment
Society for Research in Child Development
Society of Professors of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Specialized Alternatives For Families and Youth
State Associations of Addiction Services
Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance of Northern Virginia
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Bridge, Inc. (Caldwell, NJ)
The Emily Program
Therapeutic Communities of America
Title II Community AIDS National Network
Tourette Syndrome Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
United Cerebral Palsy
United Church of Christ Mental Illness Network
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Jewish Communities
US Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
Wellstone Action
White Fields, Inc. (Piedmont, OK)
Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies
Witness Justice
Word of Hope Ministries, Inc. (Milwaukee, WI)
Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program