



**POLICY
UPDATE**

Action Alert - Influence National Mental Health Parity Regulations Today!

August 4, 2009

Dear Amanda,

As you know, the behavioral health community and our supporters achieved and celebrated a great success in the passing of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. However, we are asking you today to take a step towards ensuring proper regulation and enforcement of the act by calling your congressional member and asking them to sign a letter of support.

About National Mental Health Parity and Regulations

Senators Al Franken, Ted Kennedy, Sheldon Whitehouse, and Jack Reed have signed onto a letter that will be sent to the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Department of Treasury to urge the issue of regulations by October 3, 2009 that reflect Congressional intent, as well as addressing other concerns raised during the public comment period. ***It is essential that regulations are issued to avoid misinterpretation of the law and to ensure access to critical mental health and addiction services.***

Colorado will be effected by this legislation and the regulations put into place by Congress and the Departments. Most notably, the national legislation will bring those in Colorado with self-insured plans under Colorado's mental health parity act ([SB07-36](#)), thus covering thousands more and increasing access to essential mental health and addiction services.

For more information and to download our brochure on Colorado and National mental health parity, please click [here](#).

Contact Congress Today!

We are asking you to contact your Representative and Senators by **August 6th by 3pm and ask them to sign onto the Franken/Kennedy/Whitehouse/Reed letter in support of strong parity regulations!** Together we can make a difference and ensure that mental health parity and equality are enforced!

Make sure you have your 9 digit zip code handy if you plan to email your Congressional members, you can find it out [here](#).

[Senator Mark Udall](#) - 877-7-MUDALL

[Senator Michael Bennet](#) - (202) 224-5852

[Representative Diana DeGette](#) - (202) 225-4431 or (303) 844-4988

[Representative Jared Polis](#) - (202) 225-2161 or (303) 484-9596

[Representative John Salazar](#) - (202) 225-4761 or (970) 245-7107 or (719) 543-8200

[Representative Betsy Markey](#) - (202) 225-4676 or (970) 221-7110

[Representative Doug Lamborn](#) - (202) 225-4422 or (719) 520-0055

[Representative Mike Coffman](#) - (202) 225-7882 or (720) 283.9772

[Representative Ed Perlmutter](#) - (202) 225-2645 or (303) 274-7944

This Action Alert is time sensitive, so contact your Congressional member ASAP to make the greatest impact. We appreciate any contribution you can make towards this effort! Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions about this Action Alert.

Sincerely,

Public Policy and Advocacy Team
Mental Health America of Colorado

email: policy@mhacolorado.org
phone: 720-208-2220
web: <http://www.mhacolorado.org>

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