



MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

MEDIA ALERT

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

Contact: Jacy Conradt ■ Community Relations Coordinator

720-208-2234 ■ jconradt@mhacolorado.org

Leslie Oliver ■ Communications Director Rep. Perlmutter
303-274-7944

CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARING ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY WITH CONGRESSMEN ED PERLMUTTER, PATRICK KENNEDY AND JIM RAMSTAD

Congressman Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), and Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-MN), Mental Health America and the Mental Health Association of Colorado will convene a congressional field hearing on appropriate insurance coverage for mental health legislation. National and local experts will testify on the issues confronting people with behavioral health problems, the insurance barriers they face in obtaining needed treatment, and the costs of NOT providing that treatment. All members of the media and the public are invited to attend.

"I am very proud to host this Field Hearing at the Anschutz Medical Center with my esteemed colleagues Rep. Kennedy and Rep. Ramstad. I hope this hearing will shed some light on the serious problems related to mental illness and addiction. We need to give mental health treatment the attention that it deserves," said Rep. Perlmutter.

"If it's one thing that conducting field hearings around the country really drives home, it's that mental illnesses and addictions don't discriminate on the basis of geography or class or race. With Congressman Perlmutter's help, we're going to finally make sure that health insurance doesn't discriminate either, and pass the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act this year," stated Rep. Kennedy.

"The American people should not be forced to wait any longer for Congress to knock down the barriers to treatment for mental illness and chemical addiction," said Ramstad. "Congress must hear their call and pass the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act."

"We are closing in on our goal to pass the most responsible and comprehensive federal parity bill possible," said Ramstad. "Our conversations with fellow Americans across the country have been extremely beneficial in crafting a bill that offers solutions in addressing one of the most pressing public health issues of our time. Congress must hear their call and pass the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act."



MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

WHEN: Thursday, February 22, 2007
9:00am to 11:30am
PRESS CONFERENCE: 11:00am

WHERE: 13001 E. 17th Place Aurora, CO 80011
Shore Family Forum in the Ben Nighthorse Campbell Native Health
Building at University of Colorado Health Sciences Center @
Anschutz Medical Campus (Fitzsimons)

-###-

About the Mental Health Association of Colorado

The Mental Health Association of Colorado, the Colorado affiliate of the National Mental Health Association, is the catalyst and voice for the Colorado mental health movement. Through Education, Advocacy and Outreach, we provide resources to Coloradoans affected by the entire spectrum of mental health issues.

LOCATION AND PARKING:

The campus is located in the east central part of the metro Denver area near (southwest of) the intersection of I-70 (east-west) and I-225 (a beltway running north-south at this point). The main entrance is north on Ursula St. from Colfax Ave. (which runs east-west). Ursula is between Peoria and I-225.

*Special sectioned off parking will be available in the parking lot due south of the Nighthorse Campbell Native Health Building