

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,
Alexandria, VA, March 2, 2008.

Hon. PATRICK KENNEDY,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: On behalf of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities we write in strong support of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007.

Research from the past 10 to 20 years has resulted in a fundamental change in the way mental illnesses are viewed and treated. We know now that people can improve and recover from many serious mental illnesses. Yet, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's (SAMHSA) Resource Center to Address Discrimination Stigma Associated with Mental Illness (ADS Center), only 1 in 5 of children in need is receiving appropriate treatment. Two-thirds of the roughly 54 million Americans with mental illnesses do not receive treatment.

Your legislation provides equal treatment of mental health insurance benefits compared to medical and surgical benefits specifically with respect to cost sharing requirements, financial requirements, and treatment limitations. Without parity, millions of Americans will continue to go without groundbreaking treatment leading them to suffer more emotional pain, disability, and financial burden, and resulting in greater morbidity costs—the loss of productivity in usual activities.

As you work to move this legislation across the finish line, the Councils strongly support your efforts. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

KAREN F. FLIPPO,
Chief Executive Officer.
LISTENING SAGE ASSOCIATES,
Santa Fe, NM.

Hon. PATRICK J. KENNEDY,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. JIM RAMSTAD,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES KENNEDY AND RAMSTAD: I am writing to urge House Members to vote YES on your bill H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health & Addiction Equity Act.

Insurance coverage has been grossly inadequate for mental health services and many families have not been able to afford services. Insurance companies often give false impressions about the real mental health benefits they offer. Often the client pays three fourths of the bill and the insurance company pays a small co-pay. This is unfair and dishonest. I hope your bill will be supported and passed. It needs to cut out the loop holes in former mental health acts.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

LEONA STUCKY-ABBOTT.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
DUALY DIAGNOSED,
Kingston, NY, February 29, 2008.

Hon. PATRICK J. KENNEDY,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. JIM RAMSTAD,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES KENNEDY AND RAMSTAD: I am writing on behalf of the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD) to urge House Members to vote YES on your bill H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health Addiction Equity Act.

Millions of American families who face structural discrimination against the mental health benefits in their health coverage will

welcome passage of this legislation. It is designed to close loopholes in the 1996 Federal parity law that has too often been evaded. By requiring group health plans that provide mental health or substance use benefits to include them without different duration limits and financial requirements, this legislation will help people with mental disorders without a costly burden on employers.

We hope that House passage of your strong bipartisan bill will spur to completion the negotiations with the Senate on a bill that can become law this year. Further delay is not acceptable.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. FLETCHER,
Chief Executive Officer and Founder.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the following letters of support for H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, submitted for the RECORD on the floor debate on this bill.

PARITY NOW COALITION,
March 3, 2008.

Hon. PATRICK KENNEDY,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. JIM RAMSTAD,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KENNEDY AND REPRESENTATIVE RAMSTAD: The undersigned organizations applaud you for your commitment to mental health and addiction parity legislation. We wish to thank you and your staffs for the countless hours you have dedicated to this bill thus far and look forward to working with you towards enacting the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007 into law.

We hereby lend our formal support to this invaluable piece of legislation.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AFL-CIO
AIDS Action Council
Alliance for Children and Families
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for Psychological Rehabilitation
American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence
American Association of Children's Residential Centers
American Association of Pastoral Counselors
American Association of Suicidology
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American Counseling Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Group Psychotherapy Association

American Hospital Association
American Medical Association
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychotherapy Association
American Probation and Parole Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Anna Westin Foundation
Anxiety Disorders Association of America
Association for the Advancement of Psychology
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Psychological Science
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies
Association of Recovery Schools
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Betty Ford Center
Bradford Health Services
Caron Treatment Centers
Center for Clinical Social Work
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Child Welfare League of America
Clinical Social Work Association
Clinical Social Work Guild 49, OPEIU
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
Cumberland Heights
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Easter Seals
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy and Action
Eating Disorder Referral and Information Center/EDReferral.com
Entertainment Industries Council
Faces and Voices of Recovery
Families for Depression Awareness
Families USA
Family Voices
Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
First Focus
Hazelden Foundation
HIV Medicine Association
Housing Works, Inc
Human Rights Campaign
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research
Johnson Institute
Kids Project
Legal Action Center
Mental Health America
NAADAC—The Association for Addiction Professionals
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Alliance of Methadone Advocates
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association for Children of Alcoholics
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders—ANAD
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors

National Association of Mental Health Planning & Advisory Councils
 National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
 National Association of School Psychologists
 National Association of Social Workers
 National Association of State Directors of Special Education
 National Association on Alcohol, Drugs, and Disability, Inc.
 National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
 National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
 National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD)
 National Council on Independent Living
 National Development and Research Institutes, Inc. (NDRI)
 National Eating Disorders Association
 National Eating Disorders Coalition
 National Educational Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder
 National Education Association
 National Hispanic Medical Association
 National Mental Health Awareness Campaign
 National Physicians Alliance
 National Recreation and Park Association
 National Research Center for Women & Families
 National Rural Health Association
 Northamerican Association of Masters in Psychology
 Obsessive Compulsive Foundation
 PACER Center
 Partnership for a Drug-Free America
 Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office
 Recovery Network Foundation
 School Social Work Association of America
 Society for Research on Child Development
 Society of Professors of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
 Students for Sensible Drug Policy
 Suicide Prevention Action Network USA
 State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS)
 Therapeutic Communities of America
 TII CANN—Title II Community AIDS National Network
 Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc.
 Union for Reform Judaism
 United Jewish Community
 United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society
 United Neighborhood Centers of America
 U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
 Wellstone Action

LOCAL AND STATE ORGANIZATIONS

622 Communities Partnership, Inc., Minnesota Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc.
 AA Safe Haven
 Abilities in Motion
 Addiction Recovery Institute
 Addiction Resource Council
 Addiction Treatment Providers of New Jersey
 Advocates for Recovery
 Alabama Voices for Recovery & Drug Education Council
 Alcohol and Addictions Resource Center
 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Delaware County, Inc.
 Alcohol and Drug Council of North Carolina
 Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State
 Alcoholism Council of New York
 Alcoholism Council of the Cincinnati Area, NCADD
 Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness

Alliance for Recovery
 Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, Inc.
 Alpha Project for the Homeless
 A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
 Anacostia Young Peoples Club
 Arizona Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
 Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
 Arkansas Association of Substance Abuse Treatment Programs
 Association of Persons Affected by Addiction
 Association of Substance Abuse Programs of Texas
 Aspire of Western New York, Inc.
 Barbara Schneider Foundation
 Behavioral Health Services Association of South Carolina
 BRIDGEs, Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc.
 Bucks County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
 Burke Council on Alcoholism & Chemical Dependency, Inc.
 California Association of Addiction Recovery Resources
 California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives
 California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors
 Chautauqua Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council (CASAC)
 Childrens Health Initiative
 Chemical Dependency Center of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Inc.
 Coalition of Louisiana Addiction Prevention and Service Providers
 Coastal Horizons Center, Inc.
 Colorado Association of Alcohol & Drug Service Providers
 Community and Family Resources
 Compassionate Women of the World
 Connecticut Association of Addiction Professionals
 Connecticut Association of Non-Profits
 Council on Addictions of New York State (CANYS)
 Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse for Greater New Orleans
 Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse of Sullivan County
 Council on Substance Abuse—NCADD
 The Council on Substance Abuse & Mental Health
 County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California
 Dads and Daughters
 Delaware Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
 DePaul's National Council on Alcoholism and Drug
 Dependence—Rochester Area
 Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
 Detroit Recovery Project
 Division for Learning Disabilities of the Council for Exceptional Children
 Dora Weiner Foundation
 Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania
 Drug and Alcohol Treatment Association of Rhode Island
 The Elisa Project
 Employee & Family Resources, Inc.
 Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc.
 Exponents
 Faces and Voices of Recover—Greenville, SC
 Faces and Voices of Recovery—Pee Dee
 Faces and Voices of Recovery—South Carolina
 Faces and Voices of Recovery—Westchester
 Feeling Blue Suicide Prevention Center
 Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association

Focus on Community
 Friends of Delaware and Otsego Counties, Inc.
 Friends of Recovery—Monroe County
 Friends of Recovery—Vermont
 Gail R. Schoenbach/FREED Foundation
 Gateway Foundation
 Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
 GLAD House, Inc.
 Greater Flint Project Vox
 Greater Macomb Project Vox
 Gurze Books
 Hanley Center
 Harbor Hall, Inc.
 Hope4you
 Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association
 Indiana Association of Substance Abuse Providers
 Iowa Substance Abuse Program Directors Association
 Jawonio, Inc.
 Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals
 Kingdom Recovery Center
 Kristin Brooks Hope Center
 Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
 Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery (MAAR)
 Maine Association of Substance Abuse Programs
 Maine Substance Abuse Foundation
 Maryland Addictions Directors Council
 Maryland Chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
 Maryland NAMA
 Massachusetts Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
 Massachusetts Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
 Counselors McHenry County Mental Health Board (IL)
 McShin Foundation
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse
 Corporations of Massachusetts
 Methadone Support Org.
 Michigan Association of License Substance Abuse Organizations
 Mississippi Association of Addiction Services
 Missouri Addiction Counselor Association
 Missouri Association of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs
 Missouri Recovery Network
 Missouri Recovery Network—Jefferson City Chapter
 Montana Addiction Service Providers
 Montana Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
 Counselors
 M-Power, Inc.
 Mountain Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence
 Nantucket Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, Inc.
 Nantucket Behavioral Health
 National Alliance on Mental Illness, Minnesota
 National Alliance on Mental Illness, Rhode Island
 NCADD, Greater Kansas City
 NCADD, Michigan
 NCADD, South Bay
 NCADD, Greater Detroit Area
 NCADD, Long Beach
 NCADD, Middlesex County Inc.
 NCADD, New Jersey
 NCADD, Northwest Florida
 NCADD, Orange County
 NCADD, Phoenix
 NCADD, Sacramento Region Affiliate
 NCADD, San Fernando Valley
 NCADD, Silicon Valley
 NCADD, St. Louis Area
 NCADD, Tulare County, Inc.
 National Council on Alcoholism/Lansing Regional Area, Inc.

Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations

Nevada Alliance for Addictive Disorders Advocacy, Prevention & Treatment Services
New England National Alliance of Methadone Advocates

New Hampshire Alcohol & Other Drug Service Providers Association

New York AIDS Coalition
NJ Advocates—NJ Chapter of NAMA

Nicks Place
North Carolina Association of Alcoholic Residential Facilities

North Carolina Substance Abuse Providers Association

North Dakota Addiction Treatment Providers Coalition

Northern California Chapter of the National Alliance of Methadone Advocates

Northern Michigan Project Vox
Northpointe Council, Inc.

Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency Prevention & Treatment

Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers

Oklahoma Faces and Voices of Recovery
Oklahoma Substance Abuse Services Alliance

Ophelia's Place
Oregon Prevention, Recovery, and Education Association

PAR—People Advocating Recovery
Parent-To-Parent, Inc.

Pennsylvania Recovery Organization—Achieving Community Together (PRO-ACT)

Puente de Vida
The RASE Project Buprenorphine Coordinator Program

Recovery Center
Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc.

Recovery Resource Center
Volunteers of America Alaska

Royal Oak (Michigan) Save Our Youth Task Force

Recovery Resources
Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence

Samaritan Village
Seaway Valley Prevention Council

The Second Road, Inc.
Society of Addiction Counselors of Colorado

South Carolina Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors

South Dakota Association for Addiction Professionals

South Dakota Council of Substance Abuse Providers

Spirit Works Foundation Center for the Soul

Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) of Virginia

Substance Abuse Directors Association of Alaska

Substance Abuse Recovery Alliance of Utah

Suicide Awareness Voice of Education
Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug, & Addiction Services

Townsend Recovery, LLC
Transformation Center

Turning Point Recovery Center
Upstate Cerebral Palsy (NY)

Utah Behavioral Healthcare Network
Vericare Management

Vermont Association of Drug & Alcohol Programs

Virginia Association of Alcohol and Drug Counselors

Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Programs

Washington Association of Alcoholism & Addiction Programs

Western Massachusetts School Substance Abuse Counselors Association

West Virginia Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors, Inc.

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA,
Alexandria, VA, February 27, 2008.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of Mental Health America and our 320 affiliates

across the country, I am writing to express our strong support for House passage of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007, H.R. 1424, at the earliest possible date. House passage of this historic legislation is a critical step toward enactment this year of a strong mental health parity law.

Mental health conditions are the leading cause of disability in the U.S. for individuals ages 15–44, and a leading cause of premature death, implicated in 90% of the more than 30,000 suicides annually in this country. While scientific advances have led to the development of a range of effective treatments, millions of Americans who need mental health care are routinely denied access to those treatments, with often tragic results.

Despite a compelling body of science documenting that such practices are anachronistic and costly to employee health and to the “bottom line,” employer-sponsored health plans routinely continue to set strict, arbitrary treatment limits and financial requirements on mental health coverage, while imposing no such limitations, or far less onerous limitations, on coverage for other illnesses. It is shocking, more than 40 years after the passage of civil rights laws and 15 years after passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, that federal law still permits insurance discrimination on the basis of mental illness. Our polling has consistently shown that Americans abhor such discrimination and support the enactment of a strong mental health parity law. Congress can and must pass such legislation this year.

Please support improved access to needed mental health treatment. Please support H.R. 1424.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. SHERN,
President and CEO.

HONORING GEORGIA MILLER-McCORKLE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Georgia Miller-McCorkle, who immigrated to the United States in 1980 from Trinidad, West Indies, where as a child she always excelled in school, getting merit cards along with excellent report cards. As a child, she was asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Her answer was always, “I want to be a teacher.”

At first, Ms. McCorkle settled in this country, got married, and raised five children: Sherwin, Vonetta, Fredericka, Tristan, and Robmesh. During that time, she worked at jobs fulfilling the basic home needs and helping to pay the bills, but something was missing.

Subsequently, she attended Brooklyn College, receiving her bachelor of arts, BA, degree in special education and her master's degree in special education from Long Island University. She joined the Department of Education in 1989, where her teaching skills included student-centered instruction, educational technology, parental involvement in student learning, critical thinking, individual learning plans, student motivation strategies, and active and meaningful learning activities.

Georgia Miller-McCorkle has worked with students from kindergarten through 12th grades, teaching science, music, and art, and was dean of students for 6 years. Further, she

counseled mild to profoundly mentally challenged young adults, supervising their daily activities and developing long- and short-term goals at a group home for mentally challenged adults for 3 years.

She provides cognitive and motor development skills for babies with developmental delays from birth to 3 years old in the Early Intervention Program and has been doing so for almost 12 years.

This remarkable woman is certified in: LSCI, Life Space Crisis Intervention; TCI, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention; FBA, Functional Behavioral Assessment; CPR, Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation; beginning sign language; and first aid.

Madam Speaker, it behooves us to recognize this woman who exhibits such passion for the teaching profession and still teaches the early childhood grades, K–2, enjoying her job to the fullest. She is indeed living out her dream.

MELISSA FUERST

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Melissa Fuerst of Blue Springs, Missouri. Melissa is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Melissa has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Melissa has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Melissa Fuerst for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

HONORING DONNA EASTMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donna Eastman for reaching an important milestone as a public servant to the citizens of Callender, Iowa.

For the past 25 years, Donna, a life-long resident of Callender, has served as the city clerk. As city clerk of a small town, Donna performs many diverse tasks for the community. She handles the utilities, budget, public records, city water, sewer, garbage and electric fees. Donna also files information for the mayor and city council and serves as a liaison between city residents and their elected officials. She has a strong understanding of the needs and desires of the community. With her experience and knowledge of the town she has become the town's unofficial ambassador.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending