

March 10, 2003

To: Parity Supporters

From: Peter Newbould, MHLG Health Policy Committee Cochair

Chris Koyanagi, MHLG Health Policy Committee Cochair

Re: **PARITY BILL INTRODUCED** (Parity Alert #21 Rev.)

The “Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act” ([S. 486/H.R. 953](#)) was introduced on February 27 by Senators Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Representatives Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and Jim Ramstad. More than 200 members have already expressed their support by signing on as cosponsors.

Action:

- 1) Constituents should thank the cosponsors of “Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act” for their support, and urge them to continue to work for its speedy passage.
- 2) Continue your outreach to non-cosponsors and urge them to cosponsor this important legislation.

Option 1:

Contact your legislators by using the Parity Hotline (**1-866-parity4**...1-866-727-4894). This reaches the Capitol Switchboard, which can connect callers to their Members of Congress.

Option 2:

Or write letters to Members of Congress – see samples below.

House Locator: To determine in which Congressional district one resides, go to www.house.gov/

Message:

To House Cosponsors: “I’m calling to thank the Representative for cosponsoring the Kennedy-Ramstad mental health parity bill, H.R. 953. It’s vital to pass this legislation to ban insurance discrimination against people with mental health disorders.”

To Remaining House Members: “I’m calling to urge the Representative to cosponsor the Kennedy-Ramstad mental health parity bill, H.R. 953. It’s vital to pass this legislation to ban insurance discrimination against people with mental health disorders.”

To Senate Cosponsors: “I’m calling to thank the Senator for cosponsoring the Domenici-Kennedy mental health parity bill, S. 486. It’s vital to pass this legislation to ban insurance discrimination against people with mental health disorders.”

To Remaining Senators: “I’m calling to urge the Senator to cosponsor the Domenici-Kennedy mental health parity bill, S. 486. It’s vital to pass this legislation to ban insurance discrimination against people with mental health disorders.”

Intro Statements:

Sen. Domenici... <http://domenici.senate.gov/newscenter/record.cfm?id=190714>

Sen. Kennedy... http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?position=all&page=S2973&dbname=2003_record

Rep. Kennedy... http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/ri01_kennedy/pr030227ipr.html

Rep. Ramstad... <http://www.house.gov/ramstad/>

Minneapolis Star Ledger editorial... <http://www.startribune.com/stories/561/3733652.html>

Background: Of all the cosponsors in the last Congress, 8 House Republicans and 39 House Democrats have not yet cosponsored the new parity bill.

8 of 33 Republican prior cosponsors: Bartlett (MD), Ferguson (NJ), N. Johnson (CT), King (NY), Kolbe (AZ), Ros-Lehtinen (FL), Shimkus (IL), H. Wilson (NM).

39 of 181 Democratic prior cosponsors: S. Bishop, Boswell, Cramer, Crowley, Cummings, Filner, Frank, Gephardt, Gonzalez, Gordon, Harman, Hastings, Hill, Hinojosa, Hoyer, Israel, Jackson, Jefferson, EB Johnson, Kanjorski, Kaptur, Lampson, Lantos, J. Lewis, K. Lucas, Lynch, Markey, Meeks, Millender-McDonald, Pomeroy, Reyes, Rush, Sandlin, Spratt, Tanner, B. Thompson, M. Udall, Velazquez, Waters, Watt, Wexler.

Sample House Letter

The Honorable (full name)
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative (last name):

I am writing to (thank you for cosponsoring/urge you to cosponsor) the “Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act” (H.R. 953), sponsored Representatives Patrick Kennedy and Jim Ramstad.

This bipartisan bill would take great strides in ending the use of arbitrary, one-size-fits-all limits on mental health benefits that are different from limits on other medical and surgical benefits. Passage of this legislation can make a real difference for my patients, many of whom now face higher coinsurance and arbitrary limits on the days of care that I can provide to help them with their mental disorder.

With 67 Senators, 243 members of the House of Representatives and 250 national organizations supporting full mental health parity in the 107th Congress, it is obvious that this much-needed legislation is long overdue. President Bush echoed this sentiment last April when he urged Congress to pass parity legislation.

Please urge the Congressional Leadership to prioritize passage of full mental health parity legislation during the first months of the 108th Congress.

Sincerely,

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Sample Senate Letter

The Honorable (full name)

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (last name):

I am writing as a psychologist and constituent to (thank you for cosponsoring/urge you to cosponsor) the “Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act” (S. 486), sponsored by Senators Pete Domenici and Edward Kennedy.

This bipartisan bill would take great strides in ending the use of arbitrary, one-size-fits-all limits on mental health benefits that are different from limits on other medical and surgical benefits. Passage of this legislation can make a real difference for my patients, many of whom now face higher coinsurance and arbitrary limits on the days of care that I can provide to help them with their mental disorder.

With 67 Senators, 243 members of the House of Representatives and 250 national organizations supporting full mental health parity in the 107th Congress, it is obvious that this much-needed legislation is long overdue. President Bush echoed this sentiment last April when he urged Congress to pass parity legislation.

Please urge the Congressional Leadership to prioritize passage of full mental health parity legislation during the first months of the 108th Congress.

Sincerely,

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March 10 Cosponsors: “Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act”	Grassley, Charles E. [IA] Harkin, Tom [IA] Hollings, Ernest F. [SC] Jeffords, James M. [VT] Johnson, Tim [SD] Kennedy, Edward M. [MA] Landrieu, Mary L. [LA] Lautenberg, Frank R. [NJ] Levin, Carl [MI] Lieberman, Joseph I. [CT] Lincoln, Blanche [AR] Lugar, Richard G. [IN] Mikulski, Barbara A. [MD] Murray, Patty [WA] Nelson, Bill [FL] Reed, Jack - [RI] Reid, Harry M. [NV] Roberts, Pat [KS] Rockefeller IV, John D. [WV] Specter, Arlen - [PA] Stabenow, Debbie [MI] Thomas, Craig [WY] Warner, John W. [VA]
<u>Senate: (Domenici + 43)</u> Baucus, Max [MT] Bennett, Robert F. [UT] Biden, Joseph R, Jr. [DE] Bingaman, Jeff [NM] Boxer, Barbara [CA] Cantwell, Maria [WA] Chafee, Lincoln D. [RI] Clinton, Hillary Rodham [NY] Cochran, Thad [MS] Coleman, Norm [MN] freshman Collins, Susan M. [ME] Daschle, Thomas A. [SD] Dayton, Mark [MN] DeWine, Michael [OH] Dodd, Christopher J. [CT] Dorgan, Byron L. [ND] Edwards, John [NC] Feinstein, Dianne [CA] Graham, Lindsey O. [SC] freshman	

Wyden, Ron [OR]

House: (Kennedy + 176)

Abercrombie, Neil [HI-1]
Ackerman, Gary L. [NY-5]
Allen, Thomas H. [ME-1]
Andrews, Robert E. [NJ-1]
Baca, Joe [CA-43]
Baird, Brian [WA-3]
Baldwin, Tammy [WI-2]
Ballance, Frank W., Jr. [NC-1] freshman
Becerra, Xavier [CA-31]
Berkley, Shelley [NV-1]
Berman, Howard L. [CA-28]
Berry, Marion [AR-1]
Bishop, Timothy H. [NY-1] freshman
Blumenauer, Earl [OR-3]
Boehlert, Sherwood L. [NY-24]
Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [GU] freshman
Boucher, Rick [VA-9]
Brady, Robert [PA-1]
Brown, Corrine [FL-3]
Brown, Sherrod [OH-13]
Burns, Max [GA-12] freshman
Capps, Lois [CA-23]
Capuano, Michael E. [MA-8]
Cardin, Benjamin L. [MD-3]
Carson, Brad [OK-2]
Carson, Julia [IN-7]
Case, Ed [HI-2] freshman
Christensen, Donna M. [VI]
Clay, Wm. Lacy [MO-1]
Clyburn, James E. [SC-6]
Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-14]
Cooper, Jim [TN-5]
Costello, Jerry F. [IL-12]
Davis, Danny K. [IL-7]
Davis, Jim [FL-11]
Davis, Lincoln [TN-4]
Davis, Susan A. [CA-53]
DeFazio, Peter A. [OR-4]
DeGette, Diana [CO-1]
Delahunt, William D. [MA-10]
DeLauro, Rosa L. [CT-3]
Deutsch, Peter [FL-20]
Dicks, Norman D. [WA-6]
Dingell, John D. [MI-15]

Doggett, Lloyd [TX-10]
Doyle, Michael F. [PA-14]
Emanuel, Rahm [IL-5] freshman
Engel, Eliot L. [NY-17]
English, Phil [PA-3]
Eshoo, Anna G. [CA-14]
Etheridge, Bob - [NC-2]
Evans, Lane [IL-17]
Faleomavaega, Eni F. H. [AS]
Farr, Sam [CA-17]
Fattah, Chaka [PA-2]
Foley, Mark [FL-16]
Ford, Harold E., Jr. [TN-9]
Frelinghuysen, Rodney P. [NJ-11]
Frost, Martin [TX-24]
Gilchrest, Wayne T. [MD-1]
Green, Gene [TX-29]
Greenwood, James C. [PA-8]
Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-7] freshman
Gutierrez, Luis V. [IL-4]
Hinchey, Maurice D. [NY-22]
Hoeffel, Joseph M. [PA-13]
Holden, Tim [PA-17]
Holt, Rush D. [NJ-12]
Honda, Michael M. [CA-15]
Hooley, Darlene [OR-5]
Inslee, Jay [WA-1]
Jackson-Lee, Sheila [TX-18]
Jones, Stephanie Tubbs [OH-11]
Kelly, Sue W. [NY-19]
Kildee, Dale E. [MI-5]
Kilpatrick, Carolyn C. [MI-13]
Kind, Ron [WI-3]
Kirk, Mark Steven [IL-10]
Kleczka, Gerald D. [WI-4]
Kucinich, Dennis J. [OH-10]
Langevin, James R. [RI-2]
Larsen, Rick [WA-2]
Larson, John B. [CT-1]
LaTourette, Steve C. [OH-14]
Leach, James A. [IA-2]
Lee, Barbara [CA-9]
Levin, Sander M. [MI-12]
Lipinski, William O. [IL-3]
LoBiondo, Frank A. [NJ-2]
Lofgren, Zoe [CA-16]

Lowey, Nita M. [NY-18]
Maloney, Carolyn B. [NY-14]
Matheson, Jim [UT-2]
Matsui, Robert T. [CA-5]
McCarthy, Carolyn [NY-4]
McCarthy, Karen [MO-5]
McCollum, Betty [MN-4]
McDermott, Jim [WA-7]
McGovern, James P. [MA-3]
McHugh, John M. [NY-23]
McNulty, Michael R. [NY-21]
Meehan, Martin T. [MA-5]
Menendez, Robert [NJ-13]
Miller, Gary G. [CA-42] 1st time cosponsor
Miller, George [CA-7]
Mollohan, Alan B. [WV-1]
Moore, Dennis [KS-3]
Moran, James P. [VA-8]
Murphy, Tim [PA-18] freshman
Murtha, John P. [PA-12]
Nadler, Jerrold [NY-8]
Napolitano, Grace F. [CA-38]
Neal, Richard E. [MA-2]
Norton, Eleanor Holmes [DC]
Norwood, Charlie [GA-9]
Oberstar, James L. [MN-8]
Olver, John W. [MA-1]
Ortiz, Solomon P. [TX-27]
Owens, Major R. [NY-11]
Pallone, Frank, Jr. [NJ-6]
Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [NJ-8]
Pastor, Ed [AZ-4]
Payne, Donald M. [NJ-10]
Pelosi, Nancy [CA-8]
Peterson, Collin C. [MN-7]
Platts, Todd Russell [PA-19]
Price, David E. [NC-4]
Quinn, Jack [NY-27]
Rahall, Nick J., II [WV-3]
Ramstad, Jim [MN-3]
Rangel, Charles B. [NY-15]
Rodriguez, Ciro [TX-28]
Ross, Mike [AR-4]
Rothman, Steve R. [NJ-9]
Roybal-Allard, Lucille [CA-34]
Ryan, Timothy J. [OH-17] freshman

Sabo, Martin Olav [MN-5]
Sanchez, Linda T. [CA-39] freshman
Sanchez, Loretta [CA-47]
Sanders, Bernard [VT]
Saxton, Jim [NJ-3]
Schakowsky, Janice D. [IL-9]
Schiff, Adam B. [CA-29]
Scott, Robert C. [VA-3]
Serrano, Jose E. [NY-16]
Shays, Christopher [CT-4]
Sherman, Brad [CA-27]
Simmons, Rob [CT-2]
Skelton, Ike [MO-4]
Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [NY-28]
Smith, Christopher H. [NJ-4]
Snyder, Vic [AR-2]
Solis, Hilda L. [CA-32]
Stark, Fortney Pete [CA-13]
Strickland, Ted [OH-6]
Stupak, Bart [MI-1]
Sullivan, John [OK-1]
Sweeney, John E. [NY-20]
Tauscher, Ellen O. [CA-10]
Thompson, Mike [CA-1]
Tierney, John F. [MA-6]
Townes, Edolphus [NY-10]
Turner, Jim [TX-2]
Udall, Mark [CO-2]
Udall, Tom [NM-3]
Van Hollen, Chris [MD-8] freshman
Visclosky, Peter J. [IN-1]
Walsh, James T. [NY-25]
Wamp, Zach [TN-3]
Watson, Diane E. [CA-33]
Waxman, Henry A.. [CA-30]
Weiner, Anthony D. [NY-9]
Wilson, Joe [SC-2]
Woolsey, Lynn C. [CA-6]
Wu, David [OR-1]
Wynn, Albert Russell [MD-4]