

newsletter

Sent: Friday, June 27, 2008 6:05 AM
Subject: Senate Medicare Reform!

**Status: urgent**

Dear #name#,

Please consider lending your immediate support to a bill in the Senate, HR 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, recently passed overwhelmingly in the House. This bill replaces an equally good bill which failed by one vote in the Senate last week. Sen. Harry Reid, Majority Leader, is spearheading the effort to pass it in the Senate tomorrow, Friday.

This is a great opportunity to enact a major Medicare health reform in this session!

If passed, this bill will:

- **Raise Mental Health reimbursement levels** (over six years) to 80/20 coverage, as with physical health
- **Block the fee-cuts to providers**, replacing 10%-plus cuts with a freeze at present levels in 2008 and a slight increase in 2009
- **extend payments to rural providers.**

We at the Center for Clinical Social Work hope you will consider contacting your Senators' offices at 202-224-3121. If you do so, urge them to vote for H.R. 6331 to strengthen the Medicare system and especially its mental healthcare capabilities.

The bill must be passed in the next two working days, since Congress will soon be recessing. If you wish to see the full text of the bill (277 pages), Google it at H.R. 6331.

Sincerely,

Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD

President, Board of Directors
 Center for Clinical Social Work

P.S. for those interested, the national Depression & Bi Polar Support Alliance is scheduled to be held Sept. 10-14 at Norfolk, Va. See www.DBSEAlliance.org/conference2008 for more information.