

newsletter

Sent: Sunday, August 10, 2008 9:12 PM
Subject: BCD Action Alert - Mental Health Parity Bill

**Action Alert**

August 10, 2008

To: Clinical Social Workers everywhere
 Fr: Howard Snooks, Center for Clinical Social Work

Push for the Mental Health Parity Bill during Congressional Recess!

Recently, we've demonstrated the power of personal involvement, as your messages helped persuade U.S. Senators to over-ride the President's veto of the Medicare bill and thus prevent a 10% cut in fees to providers. But there's a lot more to do, especially with regard to the House-Senate compromise Mental Health Parity Bill, pending when Congress took its recess until Sept. 8. The policy and language of the Bill have been approved, but funding sources for \$3.8 billion in offsets are still being sought.

Actions:

Over the August recess, you might send an e-mail or letter to your U.S. Representative and Senators. Our friends at Faces and Voices of Recovery have offered their site to help you send a message: <http://capwiz.com/facesandvoicesofrecovery/issues/alert/?alertid=11756211>.

Message: "I'm asking that the Representative/Senator vote for final passage of crucial mental health and addiction parity legislation. Congress must not adjourn in September without passing this needed bill."

If passed: the mental health parity law would—

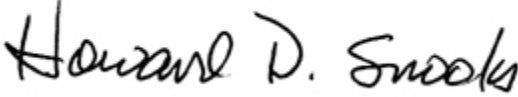
- End insurance-plan discrimination against mental health and substance-use disorder benefits for over 113 million Americans, requiring full parity coverage with physical health benefits.
- Extend to all aspects of plan coverage, including day/visit limits, dollar limits, coinsurance, copayments, deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums.
- Preserve strong state parity and consumer protection laws while extending parity protection to 82 million more people who cannot be protected by state laws.
- Ensure parity coverage for both in-network and out-of-network services.

Outreach: You might visit your U.S. Representative and Senators. Some House and Senate Members are holding "town meetings" which give you a chance to speak personally about the importance of this bill and mental healthcare. Call the local office of your Member (or the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121) for info about meetings.

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Make a difference: After years of effort, we're getting close. You can help make a difference in the lives of millions—and in your own practice—by standing up for this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard D. Snooks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD
President, Board of Directors
Center for Clinical Social Work

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