

newsletter

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2008 9:10 PM
Subject: BCD Action Alert - Call Today for Mental Health Parity!



Action Alert

Fr: Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD, President, Center for Clinical Social Work

To: All Center members and BCD clinical social workers

Re: Big Push to Pass Mental Health Parity Bill (HR 1424)

Action: If you wish to influence the passage of this crucial Bill, call your U.S. Representative on Friday and Monday (Sept. 19 and 22) through the toll-free Parity Hotline, 1-866-727-4894, to the U.S. Capitol switchboard connecting callers to Representatives. Republican Congresspersons especially need to hear of your support for this legislation.

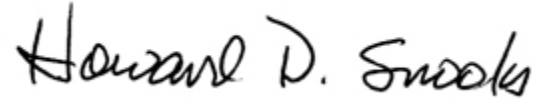
Message: "I'm calling to ask that the Representative vote **yes** on mental health and addiction parity legislation, HR 1424, when it is debated on Sept. 22."

Outlook: The agreement on mental health and addiction parity legislation will be debated by the U.S. House of Representatives starting late on Monday, Sept. 22. Now titled "The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008," the bill is on the suspensions calendar, which bars amendments and requires a two-thirds vote for passage.

Background: On the last House vote, on March 5, the Bill passed 268-148 but needed financing offsets. The House Democratic Leadership is including new offsets to cover Parity's cost of \$3.8 billion over 10 years by restricting growth of physician-owned hospitals (the Senate has already passed this) and delaying implementation of new corporate interest taxes. Should this Bill pass in the House on Monday, the Senate will likely take up the Parity Bill by unanimous consent in the closing hours of the session next week.

[After seven years of effort, a Mental Health Parity bill is possible: You can make the difference!](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard D. Snooks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'H' and 'S'.

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

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