

Mental Health Liaison Group

October 30, 2000

Representative Marge Roukema
2469 Rayburn Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Roukema:

The undersigned health and mental health organizations offer our thanks and support for your sponsorship of the Medicare Mental Illness Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 5434) in the 106th Congress.

As you know, Medicare's current statutory requirement that patients seeking outpatient treatment for mental illness pay 50 percent of their care out of pocket is clearly discriminatory. Your introductory remarks eloquently articulate the toll of current law on Medicare patients who, for no fault of their own, happen to suffer from mental illness. We know that early intervention and treatment make a tremendous difference in the lives of persons with mental illness. Your bill removes a significant financial barrier to such necessary care for the Medicare population.

We commend you for your continued dedication to ending discrimination against persons with mental illness. We look forward to working with you to secure the ultimate enactment of H.R. 5434.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Children and Families
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Children's Residential Centers
American Association of Pastoral Counselors
American Association of Private Practice Psychiatrists
American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work
American Counseling Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association

National organizations representing consumers, family members, advocates, professionals and providers

American Orthopsychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology, Inc.
Anxiety Disorders Association of America
Association for the Advancement of Psychology
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Clinical Social Work Federation
Corporation for the Advancement of Psychiatry
Employee Assistance Professionals Association
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological & Cognitive Sciences
Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
MentalHealth AMERICA, Inc.
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD)
National Association of County Behavioral Health Directors
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
National Association of Psychiatric Treatment Centers for Children
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Depressive and Manic Depressive Association
National Foundation for Depressive Illness, Inc.
National Mental Health Association
Tourette Syndrome Association