

# Mental Health Liaison Group

February 27, 2001

The Honorable Marge Roukema  
2469 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 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. 599) in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

As you know, Medicare discriminates against patients seeking outpatient treatment for mental illness by requiring them to pay 50 percent of the cost of their own care out of pocket. H.R. 599 would require such patients to pay only the same 20 percent copayment required for all other Medicare Part B services. Your introductory remarks eloquently describe the toll of current law on elderly and disabled 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 disorders, and your bill removes a significant financial barrier to those needing such care.

Thank you for your continued efforts to end discrimination against persons with mental disorders. We look forward to working with you to secure the enactment of H.R. 599.

Sincerely,

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

National organizations representing consumers, family members, advocates, professionals and providers  
c/o Peter Newbould, American Psychological Association, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002

American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Psychoanalytic Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology  
Anxiety Disorders Association of America  
Association for the Advancement of Psychology  
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
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  
International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services  
MentalHealth AMERICA, Inc.  
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
National Association for Rural Mental Health  
National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders -- ANAD  
National Association of County Behavioral Health Directors  
National Association of Mental Health Planning & Advisory Councils  
National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems  
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 Coalition for the Homeless  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association  
National Foundation for Depressive Illness  
National Mental Health Association  
Tourette Syndrome Association