

Mental Health Liaison Group

June 24, 1997

Senator Paul Wellstone
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wellstone:

The program established by the Finance Committee in Budget Reconciliation to give health care coverage to uninsured children will be greatly improved if nondiscriminatory mental health coverage is assured.

We strongly support the parity amendment you will offer with Senator Domenici today. Amending the new state grants established by the bill, it requires that whenever mental health services are included in the benefit package, they must have nondiscriminatory limits. Treatment limitations or financial requirements imposed on mental health benefits must be the same as those imposed on medical/surgical benefits.

Passage of this amendment will help make sure that this new program meets both the mental and physical health needs of children. We commend you for your initiative.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Children's Residential Centers
American Association of Private Practice Psychiatrists
American Counseling Association
American Managed Behavioral Healthcare Association
American Medical Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Orthopsychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychological Association
Anxiety Disorders Association of America
Association for the Advancement of Psychology

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

Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Child Welfare League of America
Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders
Clinical Social Work Federation
Employee Assistance Professionals Association
Family Service America
International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils
National Association of Homes and Services for Children
National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
National Association of Psychiatric Treatment Centers for Children
National Association of Social Workers
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association
National Mental Health Association