

# Mental Health Liaison Group

September 10, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Boehner, Leader Reid and Leader McConnell:

We are writing to express our support for the mental health and addiction parity compromise developed by House and Senate negotiators. We urge Congress to pass this important legislation before adjourning in September.

Congress has taken a major step forward in developing this thoughtful and balanced bipartisan legislation. We applaud the long, hard work engaged in by you and your colleagues in approving and reconciling the bipartisan House and Senate parity bills (H.R. 1424, S. 558). We urge Congress to take the last, most important step by passing this legislation.

Passage of the balanced and bipartisan mental health and addiction parity legislation would represent the fruition of many years of work by members of Congress, advocates, employer organizations and health plans to build on the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996. This broad and diverse coalition stands united in support of the parity compromise. Now, Congress has the chance to reach the goal of enacting this consensus legislation, before a new administration and a new Congress take office, and broader health policy issues begin demanding policymakers' time and attention.

We ask Congress to pass federal mental health and addiction parity legislation now.

Sincerely,

Active Minds, Inc.  
ADAP Advocacy Association  
Aetna  
AFL-CIO  
Alliance for Children and Families  
Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery  
American Academy of Family Physicians

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

American Academy of Neurology Professional Association  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
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 People with Disabilities  
American Association of Practicing Psychiatrists  
American Association of Suicidology  
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
American Benefits Council  
American Counseling Association  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Group Psychotherapy Association  
American Hospital Association  
American Humane Association  
American Jail Association  
American Mental Health Counselors Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Orthopsychiatric Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Psychoanalytic Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Psychotherapy Association  
American Public Health Association  
American School Health Association  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Thoracic Society  
Anxiety Disorders Association of America  
Aspire of Western New York  
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for the Advancement of Psychology  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies  
Association of Recovery Schools  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association to Benefit Children  
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals - US  
Autism Society of America  
Barbara Schneider Foundation  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Betty Ford Center  
BlueCross BlueShield Association  
Bradford Health Services  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Caron Treatment Centers  
Carter Center Mental Health Program  
Center for Clinical Social Work/ABE  
Center for Policy, Advocacy and Education, Mental Health Association of NYC  
CENTERSTONE Child, Adolescent and Family Division (Nashville, TN)  
Child and Family Guidance Center (Tacoma, WA)  
Child Neurology Society  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children & Families First (Wilmington, DE)  
Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty  
Children's Hospital Boston  
Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc. (Paramus, NJ)  
Children's Defense Fund  
Church Women United  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Clinical Social Work Guild 49  
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists  
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Council for Children with Behavior Disorders  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (New York, NY)  
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation  
County of Santa Clara, CA  
CT Chapter National Alliance Methadone Advocates  
Cumberland Heights  
Davis Y. Ja and Associates, Inc.  
DePelchin Children's Center  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
Easter Seals  
Eating Disorder Hope  
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action  
Emerge - Career Services (Minneapolis, MN)  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Empowered and Supporting Treatment of Eating Disorders (FEAST)  
Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Faces & Voices of Recovery  
Families First  
Families for Depression Awareness  
Families USA  
Family & Children First (Louisville, KY)  
Family & Community Service of Delaware County (PA)  
Family and Children's Center, Inc. (Mishawaka, IN)

Family Conservancy (Kansas City, KS)  
Family Counseling Service (Aurora, IL)  
Family Service Association (Langhorne, PA)  
Family Service Association (Moreno Valley, CA)  
Family Service Association of New Jersey  
Family Service Centers, Inc. (Clearwater, FL)  
Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge  
Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin  
Family Services, Inc. (North Charleston, SC)  
Family Violence Prevention Fund  
Family Voices  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Feeling Blue Suicide Prevention Council  
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church  
Hazelden Foundation  
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education  
Human Rights Campaign  
Jewish Family Service of Bergen County, Inc. (NJ)  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles  
Jewish Family Services, Inc. (Milwaukee, WI)  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago  
Johnson Institute  
Judson Center (Royal Oak, MI)  
Kids Hope United  
Kids Project  
Kristin Brooks Hope Center  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Legal Action Center  
LifeSpan, Inc. (Hamilton, OH)  
Light For Life Foundation International  
McShin Foundation  
Mental Health America  
Methodist Home for Children (Philadelphia, PA)  
Metropolitan Family Service (Portland, OR)  
Metropolitan Family Services (Chicago, IL)  
Minnesota Council of Child Caring Agencies  
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center  
Missouri Recovery Network  
NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Advocates for Pregnant Women  
National African-American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.  
National Alliance for Hispanic Health  
National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Affective Disorders  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association  
National Association for Children of Alcoholics  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association for Rural Mental Health  
National Association for the Dually Diagnosed  
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers  
National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders – ANAD  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors  
National Association of Health Underwriters  
National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors  
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Coalition of Mental Health Consumer/Survivor Organizations  
National Coalition of Mental Health Professionals and Consumers  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence  
National Council on Family Relations  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Council on Problem Gambling  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Down Syndrome Society  
National Eating Disorders Association  
National Education Association  
National Empowerment Center  
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health  
National Foundation for Mental Health  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National Mental Health Awareness Campaign  
National Organization of People of Color Against Suicide  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Physicians Alliance  
National Research Center for Women & Families  
National Respite Coalition  
National Retail Federation  
National Spinal Cord Injury Association  
Neighborhood House, Inc. (Columbus, OH)  
New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families  
NISH  
Northamerican Association of Masters in Psychology  
Obsessive Compulsive Foundation  
Our Family Services (Tucson, AZ)

PACER Center  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Pennsylvania Educational Network for Eating Disorders  
Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office  
Remuda Ranch  
Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders  
RiverzEdge Arts Project (Woonsocket, RI)  
Rogers Behavioral Health System, Inc.  
Rogers Memorial Hospital  
Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America  
School Social Work Association of America  
Shaken Baby Alliance  
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
Society for Personality Assessment  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Society of Professors of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Specialized Alternatives For Families and Youth  
State Associations of Addiction Services  
Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance of Northern Virginia  
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education  
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA  
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children  
The Advocacy Institute  
The Arc of the United States  
The Bridge, Inc. (Caldwell, NJ)  
The Emily Program  
Therapeutic Communities of America  
Title II Community AIDS National Network  
Tourette Syndrome Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Church of Christ Mental Illness Network  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Jewish Communities  
US Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association  
Wellstone Action  
White Fields, Inc. (Piedmont, OK)  
Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies  
Witness Justice  
Word of Hope Ministries, Inc. (Milwaukee, WI)  
Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program