



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS
4340 East West Highway, Suite 402
Bethesda, MD 20814

*Enhancing the mental health and
educational competence of all children.*

Phone: 301-657-0270
Fax: 301-657-0275 • TTY: 301-657-4155
Web: www.nasponline.org

Legislative Alert: Send a letter to your US Senators and Representatives asking for their support for Mental Health parity before time runs out!

Date: October 1, 2008

Action Requested: NASP needs you to ask your US Senators and Representatives to pass the “Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008” before the 110th Congress adjourns.

For many years, NASP has supported efforts in Congress to pass mental health parity legislation. Never has Congress been so close to accomplishing this goal than this year. The bill needs one more push to make it through the Congress and to the desk of the President. CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TODAY! Time is running out.

The “Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008” requires health insurance plans that offer mental health coverage to provide that coverage on par with financial and treatment coverage offered for other physical illnesses. Currently, many health insurance plans allow treatment for physical ailments to extend until the illness is remedied while they also limit the length of treatment permitted (i.e. 6 weeks) for mental illnesses. This new legislation would resolve many of the disparities in care that currently exist between physical and mental health care coverage. This legislation was developed in talks with mental health, insurance and business organizations to craft compromise legislation. It does not mandate that group plans must provide any mental health coverage, but will improve coverage for about 113 million Americans including adults and children. This legislation has broad bipartisan support and is also supported by the White House. However, as the close of the 110th Congress is rapidly approaching it is critical that the Congress pass this legislation and send it to the White House before adjournment.

Here’s what we need you to do.....

- 1. Send a letter to your elected officials through the NASP Advocacy Action Center.** Click on the following link and you will be guided through a simple *1-minute process* for sending an e-mail to your elected official. You only need your name and address to submit this correspondence. Click here (or type this link into your web browser):
<http://capwiz.com/naspweb/issues/alert/?alertid=11999326&type=CO>

OR

- 2. If you know the name of your US Senators and/or Representative, you can call them by phone: Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121.** Once you are connected with your elected official, you will likely get a voicemail system where you should say, “Hi, my name is (your name) from (your city and state). As your constituent, I am calling to ask for your support in

the passage of the ‘Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008’. Please do not let Congress adjourn without passing this legislation first. If you need to reach me for any reason, you can contact me at (your phone number) or (your e-mail address).”

- 3. Forward this e-mail to any colleagues, friends, or family members that you think might be interested in participating in this effort.** They do not have to be NASP members to participate.

If you are interested in reading the actual text of this bill, click here (or type this address into your web browser: <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and type HR 6983 in the search box, click bill number, and then click SEARCH.

Thank you for your advocacy efforts and being part of the 1-minute solution! If you have any questions or comments about this alert, please feel free to contact NASP Public Policy Director, Stacy Skalski, at sskalski@naspweb.org or 301-657-0270.

“I never worry about action, but only inaction.”
--Winston Churchill