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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) Honored by National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems

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#### **Award Recognizes Longstanding Leadership in Support of America's Mental Health**

(Washington, D.C., April 8, 2008)...**Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)** was honored today by the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) for "his longstanding leadership and firm commitment to working for those with serious mental illnesses." The Presidential Award was presented at the NAPHS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

In announcing the award, NAPHS Executive Director **Mark Covall** noted that "Sen. Cardin has been an outstanding leader on complex policy issues that have a direct impact on the lives of millions of children, adolescents, adults, and older adults in need of treatment for serious psychiatric and substance use disorders." For example, Sen. Cardin has focused attention on issues ranging from the need for mental health parity to the need for adequate financing for essential treatment," said Mr. Covall. "We applaud and want to recognize the extraordinary contributions of this congressional champion who has committed to improving mental health care for all Americans."

NAPHS advocates for behavioral health and represents provider systems that are committed to the delivery of responsive, accountable, and clinically effective prevention, treatment, and care for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults with mental and substance use disorders. Its members are behavioral healthcare provider organizations that own or manage more than 600 specialty psychiatric hospitals, general hospital psychiatric and addiction treatment units and behavioral healthcare divisions, residential treatment facilities, youth services organizations, and extensive outpatient networks. The association was founded in 1933.

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