

## **STATEMENT**

**From Mark Covall, President/CEO,  
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems**

on release of regulations governing  
*The Paul Wellstone And Pete Domenici  
Mental Health Parity And Addiction Equity Act Of 2008*

**January 29, 2010**

Today three federal agencies (the Departments of Health & Human Services, Labor, and Treasury) jointly released an interim final rule providing regulations to help implement the historic federal parity law which went into effect last year (the *Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act*). These [regulations](#) will be published in the February 2, 2010, *Federal Register*.

As an association representing behavioral healthcare organizations, professionals, and employers, the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) applauds this important next step on the road to implementing and enforcing equality in health insurance.

Mental health is integral to overall health, and clear guidelines for implementing the federal law will go a long way toward putting mental health and addiction treatment on equal footing with that for all other medical conditions.

Because of the complexity of implementation, we recognize that not all questions are answered by these regulations. We look forward to continuing to provide these agencies with the real-world perspective of our member organizations and their professional staffs who deliver behavioral health care – day in and day out – to individuals and families with severe and complex mental and addictive disorders. For providers, mental health parity is a critical step in ensuring that those who are in greatest need will have health coverage that will give them access to the right treatment in the right setting.

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