

RSA e-Alert

UP TO THE MINUTE NEWS
FROM
THE RESEARCH SOCIETY ON ALCOHOLISM

CALL TO ACTION ON MENTAL HEALTH PARITY LEGISLATION

June 23, 2008

The negotiations between the House and Senate managers on the mental health parity legislation are nearing completion and **it appears that a vote on final passage may occur as early as this week on the House and Senate floors.** The purpose of this legislation is ensure that all Americans have access to mental health and addiction treatment. The bill prohibits health insurers from placing discriminatory restrictions on such treatment and bars health plans from charging higher co-payments, coinsurance, deductibles, and maximum out-of-pocket limits and imposing lower day and visit limits on mental health and addiction care.

It is important that you express your support for the mental health parity bill to your elected officials. Please call, e-mail, or write your Representative and Senator today. Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask for your Senator or Representative's office. When you reach the office, remember that telephone calls are usually taken by a staff member, not the Member of Congress. Ask to speak with the aide who handles the mental health issue and identify yourself and your profession. Tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message for your Member of Congress: "Please tell Senator (Name) or Representative (Name) that I support the mental health parity bill, and urge him or her to vote in favor of the final legislation when it comes up for a vote."

If you would like to e-mail your Member of Congress, please go to www.Senate.gov or www.House.gov and the site will direct you to your Congressman or Senator's contact information. OR, click on <http://capwiz.com/sfn/home/> and send an e-mail from this link.

RSA urges you to encourage your Senators and Congressman to vote in favor of passing the final language for the mental health parity legislation when it is presented for a vote.