

<Organization/Assoc. Letter Head >

(If you are an individual supporter, please put your address below your name)

<Date>

Senator Corbett, Chair, Budget Sub #3
Assemblymember Weber, Chair, Budget Sub #1
California State Legislature
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Mental Health Parity Enforcement Budget Act

Dear Honorable Chairs,

On behalf of <Org./Assoc.>, I urge you to support the ***Mental Health Parity Enforcement Budget Act***. This action will ensure millions of Californians, who are suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders, get the help they need and deserve at a minimal cost to the state general fund.

Despite the passage of the parity laws, access to mental health and substance abuse treatment remains elusive for too many Californians. Only 60 percent of people suffering mental illness actually get treatment, according to federal health officials. Stronger enforcement laws are needed to safeguard consumers from health insurers who routinely ignore the law.

The Mental Health Parity Enforcement Budget Act would dramatically improve consumer and provider transparency, adopt national standards and force health insurers to submit documented evidence --surveys of consumers and providers and other analysis --to prove they are complying with the law. But most importantly, it provides the funding, derived primarily from fees on insurance plans, to ensure regulators have the tools they need to enforce the tougher standards and rules.

Consumers paying for insurance should have confidence that they are receiving all the services to which they are entitled. Transparency both for parity in insurance and with health service plan operations is a federal requirement designed to ensure equity and fairness in the provision of those services.

In California, an estimated 500,000 people with mental health needs are now eligible for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act. Now more than ever, we must act to ensure all Californians suffering from a mental health or substance abuse disorder get the treatment they deserve.

Thank you for supporting the Mental Health Parity Enforcement Budget Act and the millions of Californians who are suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Sincerely,
<*Signature*>

<*Name*>
<*Address*>
<*Title*>

Cc: Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor, State of California
Shelley Rouillard, Director, California Department of Managed Health Care