

July 17, 2007

The Honorable George Miller  
The Honorable Howard McKeon  
The Honorable Robert E. Andrews  
The Honorable John Kline  
Committee on Education and Labor  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Miller and Andrews and Ranking Members McKeon and Kline:

We write in joint and strong opposition to H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007. We urge you to adopt the language of the managers' amendment to S. 558, the Mental Health Parity Act, in its stead.

We strongly oppose H.R. 1424, principally because of its broad benefit mandate, its lack of protection for medical management of benefits, provisions allowing the states to enact more extensive provisions including an alternative remedy structure, and provisions mandating out-of-network coverage.

The undersigned organizations remain committed to the bipartisan Senate process and the balanced legislation that process produced. The House bill is similar in many respects to the mental health parity bills we have previously opposed. In some respects, it is worse.

Again, we strongly oppose the House bill, H.R. 1424 and urge its defeat in the House Education and Labor Committee on Wednesday. We urge your support instead for the substitute amendment containing the language of the managers' amendment to S. 558, the Mental Health Parity Act.

Sincerely,

National Retail Federation  
Aetna  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
American Benefits Council  
Society for Human Resource Management  
National Association of Health Underwriters  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Restaurant Association  
BlueCross BlueShield Association  
Retail Industry Leaders Association