

HR 6983

Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Health
Introduced: Sep 22, 2008
Current Status: Received in the Senate.
Latest Action: Received in the Senate. (Sep 23, 2008)
Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/6983>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Kennedy, Patrick J. [D-RI-1]
Party: Democratic • **State:** RI • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Andrews, Robert E. [D-NJ-1]	D · NJ		Sep 22, 2008
Rep. Dingell, John D. [D-MI-15]	D · MI		Sep 22, 2008
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Sep 22, 2008
Rep. Ramstad, Jim [R-MN-3]	R · MN		Sep 22, 2008
Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Sep 22, 2008
Rep. Stark, Fortney Pete [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Sep 22, 2008
Rep. Waxman, Henry A. [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Sep 22, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 22, 2008
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 22, 2008
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 22, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 1424	Related bill	Oct 3, 2008: Became Public Law No: 110-343.
110 HR 7202	Related bill	Oct 2, 2008: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands.
110 S 558	Related bill	Oct 17, 2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.
110 HR 1367	Related bill	Jun 5, 2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 - (Sec. 2) Amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code to require a group health plan that provides both medical and surgical benefits and mental health or substance use disorder benefits to ensure that: (1) the financial requirements, such as deductibles and copayments, applicable to such mental health or substance use disorder benefits are no more restrictive than the predominant financial requirements applied to substantially all medical and surgical benefits covered by the plan; (2) there are no separate cost sharing requirements that are applicable only with respect to mental health or substance use disorder benefits; (3) the treatment limitations applicable to such mental health or substance use disorder benefits are no more restrictive than the predominant treatment limitations applied to substantially all medical and surgical benefits covered by the plan; and (4) there are no separate treatment limitations that are applicable only with respect to mental health or substance use disorder benefits.

Requires the criteria for medical necessity determinations and the reason for any denial of reimbursement or payment for services made under the plan with respect to mental health or substance use disorder benefits to be made available by the plan administrator.

Requires the plan to provide out-of network coverage for mental health or substance use disorder benefits if the plan provides coverage for medical or surgical benefits provided by out-of network providers.

Exempts from the requirements of this Act a group health plan if the application of this Act results in an increase for the plan year of the actual total costs of coverage with respect to medical and surgical benefits and mental health and substance use disorder benefits by an amount that exceeds 2% for the first plan year and 1% for each subsequent plan year. Requires determinations as to increases in actual costs under a plan to be made and certified by a qualified and licensed actuary.

Requires determinations for such an exemption to be made after such plan has complied with this Act for the first six months of the plan year.

Sets forth requirements for notifications of exemptions under this Act, including notification of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the appropriate state agencies, and participants and beneficiaries in the plan.

Authorizes the Secretary and the appropriate state agency to audit the books and records of a group health plan relating to an exemption.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) report to the appropriate congressional committees on compliance of group health plans with the requirements of this Act; and (2) publish guidance and information concerning the requirements of this Act and provide assistance concerning such requirements and the continued operation of applicable state law.

Requires the Comptroller General to report to Congress on the specific rates, patterns, and trends in coverage and exclusion of specific mental health and substance use disorder diagnoses by health plans and health insurance.

(Sec. 3) - Amends the Internal Revenue Code to: (1) delay until 2013 the application of special rules for the worldwide allocation of interest for purposes of computing the limitation on the foreign tax credit; and (2) increase the amount of interest allocable to sources within the United States from 30 to 85% in the first taxable year in which the worldwide allocation of interest applies.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 23, 2008:** Mr. Pallone moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 23, 2008:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H8614-8625)
- **Sep 23, 2008:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 6983.
- **Sep 23, 2008:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Sep 23, 2008:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H8657-8658)
- **Sep 23, 2008:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 376 - 47 (Roll no. 625).(text: H8614-8618)
- **Sep 23, 2008:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 376 - 47 (Roll no. 625). (text: H8614-8618)
- **Sep 23, 2008:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 23, 2008:** Received in the Senate.
- **Sep 22, 2008:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 22, 2008:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.