

**newsletter**

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**Sent:** Wednesday, September 24, 2008 10:11 PM  
**Subject:** BCD News Alert - Congress Passes Mental Health Parity!



Sept. 24, 2008

To BCD clinicians and Center members

Fr: Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD, President

Re: ***Congress Passes Mental Health Parity!***

In a historic vote yesterday, the Senate and the House each passed the bill ensuring insurance-coverage parity for mental health and addiction services. This is the culmination of years of advocacy by the Center for Clinical Social Work and many other mental-health-oriented organizations. To all of you who have supported us in this effort—and to all who took advantage of these email alerts to contact your Representatives and Senators—thanks and congratulations! Thanks too to Congress, who acted courageously and resourcefully in making this bill a priority and finding the means to fund it.

Millions of people who did not have access to covered mental-health services will now do so as a result of this legislation. President Bush has said in the past that he would sign it if passed.

The Senate vote of **83 to 12** is posted as vote #204 at:  
[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/vote\\_menu\\_110\\_2.htm](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/vote_menu_110_2.htm)

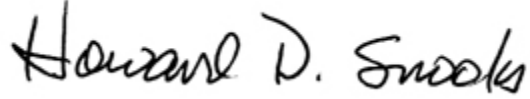
Floor vote to waive a Budget Act point of order against and pass the Baucus/Grassley amendment #5635, combining the House/Senate agreement on parity (the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici MH Parity & Addiction Equity Act of 2008) with tax extenders, AMT and disaster relief.

The House vote of **376 to 47** is posted at <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2008/index.asp>

House passage of H.R. 6983, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici MH Parity & Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

We'll know more soon about plans for final reconciliation: because the bills to which Parity is attached are different in form, more voting is necessary. Congress evidently will continue its session next week, on October 2, beyond the original adjournment date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard D. Snooks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD  
President, Board of Directors  
Center for Clinical Social Work

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