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**Mary Bono Mack**  
**Congress of the United States**  
**45th District, California**

July 7, 2009

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The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chairman  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chair, Subcommittee on Health  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Chairman Pallone:

I write to express that it is encouraging to see that the Committee's health care reform "discussion draft" includes mental health and substance use disorder services as required parts of certain policy components and references the Wellstone Domenici parity law.

As you and your staffs refine the bill prior to mark up, I ask that you ensure mental health and substance use disorder services are fully and equitably included throughout the legislation. Specifically, I am hopeful that consideration can be given to referencing mental health and substance use disorders throughout the bill, including in the workforce, prevention and wellness titles, and the appropriate agencies such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Office of National Drug Control Policy are directly referenced where appropriate in the legislation.

Medical experts agree that substance use disorders and serious mental illness are chronic diseases that can be prevented and treated effectively. Fully and equitably including mental health and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery support services in healthcare reform will improve the quality of life for millions of Americans and dramatically reduce healthcare costs.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you and your staffs in ensuring all Americans have access to mental health and addiction treatment.

Sincerely,

  
MARY BONO MACK  
Member of Congress