

Data Trends

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The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law reports on new legislation introduced to eliminate health-insurance companies' discrimination between mental health and medical/surgical care. The Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act of 2001 (S. 543) would extend full parity to all individuals with a condition listed in the DSM-IV. Specifically, S.543 would prohibit health insurance plans from imposing inpatient hospital day and outpatient visit limits and from applying different deductibles, co-payments, out-of-network charges and other financial requirements for mental health treatment.

The Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act of 2001 (S. 543) builds on the existing 1996 Parity Act (P.L. 104-204). Because the 1996 Parity Act (P.L. 104-204) ends September 30, 2001, a hearing on S. 543 must be held before that date. Read more about the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act of 2001 (S. 543) at the Bazelon Center website: <http://www.bazelon.org/061201parityalert.html>

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