

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY ALERT

March 2, 2007

Mental health parity bills have been introduced for the 2007-08 session of the Michigan Legislature.

They are: HB 4390 – Chief Sponsor = Mark Meadows (D-East Lansing); 43 co-sponsors
HB 4391 – Chief Sponsor = Ted Hammon (D-Burton); 43 co-sponsors
HB 4392 – Chief Sponsor = Fran Amos (R-Waterford); 43 co-sponsors
HB 4393 – Chief Sponsor = Bert Johnson (D-Highland Park); 43 co-sponsors

SB 332 – Sponsor = Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods)
SB 333 – Sponsor = Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) and Senator Jacobs
SB 334 – Sponsor = Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) and Senator Jacobs
SB 335 – Sponsor = Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) and Senator Jacobs

The above bills would provide full parity for mental illnesses and addiction disorders. Senator Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) has additionally introduced SB 329 and 330, which would establish full parity for mental illness, but not addiction disorder.

The House Bills have been referred to the House Insurance Committee, chaired by Virgil Smith III (D-Detroit).

The Senate Bills have been referred to the Senate Health Policy Committee, chaired by Tom George (R-Texas Township).

You can get copies of the bills and learn who all the House co-sponsors are by going to www.michiganlegislature.org.

Chief sponsors and co-sponsors should be thanked. If your legislators don't appear as sponsors, please contact them with information about why parity is important to you, and how you're counting on their support for parity legislation.

Parity: It's the right thing to do. It's the only thing to do.

Mental Health Association in Michigan
Mark Reinstein, Ph.D., President & CEO ~ Linda Hryhorczuk, M.D., Board Chair
30233 Southfield Rd., Ste. 220, Southfield, MI 48076
Phone: 248/647-1711 ~ Fax: 248/647-1732
e-mail: mhamich@aol.com ~ web: www.mha-mi.org (Frank Andraea, Webmaster)
A United Way-Supported Agency