



**nami**

National Alliance on Mental Illness

**Maine**

*January 19, 2012*

## **ACTION ALERT**

Yesterday the Insurance and Financial Services Committee voted out LD 882, a carryover from last year along strictly partisan lines. **This bill will eliminate all mandated health insurance benefits in 2014 and replace them with a defined benefit plan...** What will the defined benefit plan look like? **WE DON'T KNOW!!!** We know that the majority on the committee has made no promises regarding the plan and SOME expressed an interest in eliminating most of the mandates, or weakening them...

Many of you will remember our five year fight to create strong mental health parity laws in Maine we can not afford to lose these! We need to stop this bill in the House or Senate. In order to do that, we must make sure that **all of the Democrats and a handful of Republicans in the House and Senate vote to oppose this bill on the floor NEXT week when it comes up, likely by Thursday.** Please call your elective representatives **this weekend** and tell them NOT to support the majority report on this bill. Tell them it is a health care issue and NOT a partisan issue.

### **Why oppose?**

- Tell them what mental health parity has meant for you.
- Because it is extremely premature. We do not yet know what the defined benefit plan will look like in Maine that will replace all of the mandated benefits.
- We do not yet know if it will cover hospice, breast reconstruction, pap smears, any mental health coverage and by what providers, certain children's health services that are currently mandated, vision care, certain cancer screenings, AIDS services, certain nursing services, formulas for babies with allergies, chiropractic care, many specified medical procedures, etc.
- What we do know is that EVERY mandate in Maine was written by legislators in the past because an insurance company refused to cover one of these essential services.
- We also know that it took the better part of a DECADE TO GET ALL OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COVERAGE ON THE BOOKS.

**Calls must be made this weekend.**

You can find the LIST of Mandated benefits that will be eliminated if this bill (LD 882) passes the House and Senate next week: [http://www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/consumer/mandated\\_benefits.htm](http://www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/consumer/mandated_benefits.htm)

We need to know if anyone tells you they will appose it. We need to get **thousands of calls out this weekend** because if this passes we will not be able to repeal it because the Governor will sign it and he would veto any attempts to repeal it.

Thank you for your attention!

Click on this link for more information: [http://www.alphaonenow.org/userfiles/Copy%20of%20Essential%20Health%20Benefits%20comparison\(2\)%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.alphaonenow.org/userfiles/Copy%20of%20Essential%20Health%20Benefits%20comparison(2)%20(2).pdf)

For questions or concerns please contact Carol Carothers at: [info@namimaine.org](mailto:info@namimaine.org) or (207) 622-5767. Thank you for your support!