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General Comment

As a doctoral level psychologist whom treats people w/ Severe Persistent Mental Illnesses, the passage of federal mental health parity is an absolute necessity.

In North Carolina, in 2009, for instance, BCBSNC was allowed to OPT OUT of mental health parity by the NC State Legislature due to their undue influence on the NC STate Legislature. BCBSNC is the largest private insurer in the state of NC. BCBSNC is supposedly monitored by the NC State Legislature.

Thus, very obviously, until there is PARITY in terms of Utilization Review and what the insurance company can DO versus what they SAY----- little to no progress will be made as regarding mental health parity. Undue influence will continue to trump any efforts to obtain mental health parity.

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