

JIM RAMSTAD
THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER, OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE



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May 1, 2008

Dr. Dan Reidenberg, PSY.D, FAPA
Executive Director
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education
8120 Penn Avenue South, Suite 470
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431

Dear SAVE Supporters:

Many thanks for your inspiring dedication to SAVE and all your hard work in the prevention of suicide.

I have always deeply admired SAVE. You are performing public service of the highest order and I applaud your critical efforts to prevent suicide through public awareness and education, reduce the stigma of depression and mental illness and serve as a resource for families touched by suicide.

I very much appreciate your support and advocacy for our mental health parity legislation and efforts to pass this important bill to help people suffering from mental illness and addiction.

You will be pleased to know that the "Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act" (HR 1424) recently passed the House by a strong bipartisan vote. We must now negotiate with the Senate so this critical, cost-effective legislation can be sent to the President for his signature.

We must end the discrimination against people suffering from mental illness and addiction! It is unconscionable that health plans and insurance companies often require higher copayments and deductibles or further limit treatment stays for mental health services and addiction treatment than for other medical services.

I hope you contact your members of Congress in support of this life-saving legislation and any other efforts that will increase access to treatment to prevent the tragedy of suicide.

Thanks again for your kind words and all you are doing at SAVE to prevent more tragedies. I always appreciate hearing from you. Please let me know whenever I can be helpful to you or your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".

JIM RAMSTAD
Member of Congress