

Senate Mental Health Parity Bill – Summary

This legislation represents the most significant expansion of mandated mental health benefits in the Commonwealth since the first Mental Health Parity bill was enacted in 2000.

This bill will update the current list of 9 biologically based conditions covered by the Parity Law to include coverage of 4 more conditions. The bill mandates that health insurance coverage must include unlimited coverage for medically necessary treatment of:

- 1.) Substance Abuse
- 2.) Eating disorders,
- 3.) Post-traumatic stress disorders, and
- 4.) Autism.

The language also provides the Commissioner of Mental Health unilateral authority to require unlimited coverage for any *additional* disorder contained in the DSM.

Disorders not included in the list, and not authorized by the Commissioner of Mental Health, still receive 60 inpatient days and 24 outpatient visits for non-biologically based illnesses.