

**KENNEDY, DOMENICI & ENZI TO UNVEIL LONG-AWAITED BREAKTHROUGH ON
MENTAL HEALTH PARITY**

Washington, D.C. – Today, Senators Edward M. Kennedy, Pete Domenici, and Mike Enzi will hold a news conference to unveil a breakthrough on legislation to ensure greater health insurance parity for persons with mental illness.

The Senators will announce the introduction of new mental health parity legislation that will build on the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996 that began the process of ending health insurance discrimination against people suffering from mental illness.

The legislative agreement was reached after months of intense negotiations during which Domenici, Kennedy and Enzi pushed mental health advocates, and business and health insurance interests to agree on advancing mental health parity. Previous pushes for parity stalled after the 2002 death of Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone, who coauthored the 1996 law with Domenici.

Senators Kennedy and Enzi are chairman and ranking member, respectively, of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee that has jurisdiction over this issue, Senator Domenici is a long-time mental health advocate.

**WHO: SENATOR KENNEDY
 SENATOR DOMENICI
 SENATOR ENZI**

WHAT: PRESS CONFERENCE

WHERE: SENATE RADIO-TV GALLERY, U.S. CAPITOL

WHEN: 2:45, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12