



### MENTAL HEALTH – SAMPLE LEGISLATION

**Connecticut Public Act 99-284 (2002)** – Provides for equivalent coverage of mental illness in individual and group health plans.

**Florida House Bill 1477 (2007)** – Creates Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program to provide funding for mental health courts, diversion programs and reentry services for persons with mental illness.

**New Hampshire House Bill 1493 (2010)** – Establishes a committee to study comprehensive mental health and substance use disorders parity. The study would include a review of the cost and benefits associated with the possible expansion of mental health and substance use disorders coverage to citizens of New Hampshire.

**New Jersey Senate 2583 (2005)** – Establishes the Special Needs Housing Trust Fund to finance special needs housing projects through bond proceeds issued by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

**New York Assembly Bill 5659 (2010)** – Directs the commissioner of mental health to prepare a report on the effectiveness of mental health parity.

**North Carolina House Bill 1183 (2009)** – Requires group health plans that cover both medical and surgical benefits and mental health benefits to comply with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

**Pennsylvania House Bill 1593 (2009)** – Covers health insurance parity and nondiscrimination and requires group health plans that cover both medical and surgical benefits and mental health benefits to comply with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

**South Carolina Senate Bill 390 (2009)** – Brings South Carolina's insurance laws into compliance with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and requires health insurance plans to cover both medical and surgical benefits and mental health equally.

**Virginia Senate Bill 706 (2010)** – Would expand coverage for mental health and substance abuse services. Requires group health insurance coverage issued to large employers provide mental health and substance use disorder benefits in parity with the medical and surgical benefits contained in the coverage, in accordance with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

**Washington State House Bill 1088 (2007)** – Establishes a comprehensive children's mental health services with an emphasis on evidence-based practices.