

Determination of Essential Health Benefits



Jeff Sell, Esq.

VP, Public Policy & General Counsel

18 January 2011

ACA

- Section 1302(b)(1) lists ten general categories of essential health benefits, including “Mental health and substance use disorder services, including *“behavioral health treatment”* (section 1302(b)(1)(E)).
- The reference to behavioral health treatment was added by amendments in both the House and Senate.
- Must give effect to each provision of the Act, including section 1302(b)(1)

ACA

- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) determined that Sen. Menendez's amendment did not require any cost offsets.
- The CBO concluded that the Menendez amendment clarified rather than expanded what the Senate Finance Committee Chairman's Mark required, namely, mental health and substance abuse services that at least met minimum standards set by federal and state laws.



Thank You

Jeff Sell, Esq.

*VP, Public Policy
& General Counsel*

Autism Society

4340 East West Highway, Suite 350

Bethesda, MD 20814

301-657-0881 ext. 9004 (office)

jsell@autism-society.org

www.autism-society.org



 **AUTISM SOCIETY**
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism