

# American Psychiatric Association

1000 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 1825  
Arlington, VA 22209  
Telephone 703.907.7300  
Fax 703.907.1085  
E-mail [apa@psych.org](mailto:apa@psych.org)  
Internet [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org)

## Board of Trustees

2009-2010

Alan F. Schatzberg, M.D.

*President*

Carol Ann Bernstein, M.D.

*President-Elect*

Jeffrey L. Geller, M.D., M.P.H.

*Vice President*

David Fassler, M.D.

*Secretary-Treasurer*

Nada L. Stotland, M.D., M.P.H.

Carolyn B. Robinowitz, M.D.

Pedro Ruiz, M.D.

*Past Presidents*

Dilip V. Jeste, M.D.

Roger Peele, M.D.

Joyce A. Spurgeon, M.D.

Frederick J. Stoddard Jr., M.D.

James E. Nininger, M.D.

John C. Urbaitis, M.D.

John J. Wernert III, M.D.

Mary Helen Davis, M.D.

Thomas K. Ciesla, M.D.

William M. Womack, M.D.

Melinda G. Fierros, M.D.

Kayla M. Pope, M.D., J.D.

*Trustees*

## Assembly

2009-2010

Gary S. Weinstein, M.D.

*Speaker*

Bruce A. Hershfield, M.D.

*Speaker-Elect*

Ann Marie T. Sullivan, M.D.

*Recorder*

## Staff

James H. Scully Jr., M.D.

*Medical Director and CEO*

Ronald E. McMillen

*Chief Executive Officer,*

*American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.*

Darrel Regier, M.D., M.P.H.

*Executive Director,*

*American Psychiatric Institute for*

*Research and Education*

Paul T. Burke

*Executive Director,*

*American Psychiatric Foundation*

January 20, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader of the Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Reid and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the medical specialty representing 38,000 psychiatric physicians nationwide, I am writing to underscore our continued advocacy for two key issues included in the House health reform proposal and referenced in my letter dated January 7. As you renew your efforts to enact health care reform, we urge you to include House language protecting advances in mental health "parity" and extending health benefit coverage requirements to all health insurance plans, regardless of plan size, within five years of health reform passage.

The Affordable Health Care for America Act, H.R. 3962, includes the following two urgently important provisions for the practice of psychiatry and the treatment of our patients:

- Including mental health and substance-use disorder treatment as part of the required basic benefit package for all qualified health plans in the Health Insurance Exchange, and extending this coverage requirement to all health insurance plans within five years.
- Preserving in whole the recent advances for parity in mental health and substance-use disorder treatment.

We urge you to regard these provisions as essential to reforming our nation's health insurance system. We recognize the continuing challenges for developing a comprehensive health reform plan and share your urgency for reforming our nation's health care system this year. We appreciate all of your efforts to secure enactment of crucial legislation to bring quality, affordable health care within reach.

On behalf of the members of the American Psychiatric Association and their patients, thank you again for your leadership as we work to provide health care access for all Americans.

Sincerely,



Alan F. Schatzberg, M.D.  
President

