

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



April 5, 2007

The Honorable Pete Stark  
239 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stark:

I am writing in support of the 2007 Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act that you introduced in March and to let you know I appreciate your effort to move this important piece of legislation forward.

As you may know, the mental health of older adults is an extremely important issue for the state of Iowa. A recent CDC study indicated that nearly 5% of aging Iowans currently experience a severe mental health problem and yet their use of mental health services remains the lowest among all population groups.

You also may know that the Iowa Coalition on Mental Health and Aging (ICMHA) was established to address the needs of older Iowans with mental illnesses. The Coalition's mission is to expand and improve mental health care for older Iowans so that they can live, learn, recreate, engage in meaningful activities and access appropriate services in the communities of their choice. Our coalition strongly supports the issues being addressed by the 2007 Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act.

Again, I appreciate your support for this important issue. If you want to learn more about the mental health issues facing aging Iowans, please contact me or visit our website at <http://www.icmha.org>.

Sincerely,

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