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APA Mourns the Passing of Senator Edward Kennedy
A Stalwart Advocate for Health Care and Patient Care

ARLINGTON, Va. (August 26, 2009) - The American Psychiatric Association (APA) mourns the loss of Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), who died today after a long battle with brain cancer. The APA offers this statement of condolence:

With the death of Sen. Edward Kennedy, our country and our profession have lost a staunch champion of quality health care and patients' rights. Sen. Kennedy was always focused on leading the legislative agenda on patients and quality patient care. He possessed a passion and commitment to health care issues during his long career in the Senate. Even as he was fighting for his life, he put patients and their care first, and fought for the 46 million Americans who are uninsured.

Kennedy will always be remembered for his dramatic return to the Senate that led to the passing of a landmark legislative reform bill for mental health. It was under his leadership that the Paul Wellstone-Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 was approved.

Kennedy was also instrumental in reducing the disparity of the 50 percent Medicare coinsurance requirement for mental health services, thus ensuring those who have a mental disorder are provided with access to care on an equal level.

Sen. Kennedy was beloved by his constituents, colleagues and fellow health advocates, and the American Psychiatric Association is deeply saddened by his passing. He leaves a legacy of commitment to designing public policy that would improve our country's health care system and access to treatment. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

The **American Psychiatric Association** is a national medical specialty society whose more than 38,000 physician members specialize in diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at www.psych.org and www.HealthyMinds.org.

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