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Faces & Voices of Recovery commends House passage of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Act; Urges quick action to end insurance discrimination

WASHINGTON, DC (March 5, 2008)—Faces & Voices of Recovery hailed today's historic vote by the US House of Representatives to pass critical legislation to end insurance discrimination facing people with addiction and mental illness. The 268-148 vote came on the heels of a national mobilization in support of the bill by people in recovery from addiction, their families, friends and allies.

Thousands of people called Capitol Hill to support passage of the bill as part of a National Call-in Day on March 4. The main sponsors of The Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act, H.R. 1424, Representatives Jim Ramstad (R-MN) and Patrick Kennedy (D-MA), have been joined by a majority and bi-partisan group of 273 co-sponsors in the House and shepherded the bill through three House committees.

"The Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007 is the right solution to ending insurance discrimination facing people with alcohol and drug problems and their families," said Merlyn Karst, chair of the Faces & Voices of Recovery Board of Directors. "We urge the Congress to come together and hammer out the differences between the strong bill that the House passed today and the Senate-passed version of the "parity" legislation, S. 558. Now the hard work of addressing the disparities in the two versions begins. The American public is desperate for the strongest possible bill to reach the White House this year to end the discrimination that's keeping people with addiction from getting the help they need."

ABOUT FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY

Faces & Voices of Recovery is the national organization of individuals and organizations joining together with a united voice to advocate for public action to deliver the power, possibility and proof of recovery from addiction. www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org.

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