**Kennedy Forum Update on Parity Rulemaking**

The Kennedy Forum [continues](https://qxty-zgph.maillist-manage.com/click/1262069b58a805b4/1262069b58a7f2ce) to lead the advocacy community through the public comment period for the Biden Administration’s proposed rules to the Federal Parity Act. Strengthening the existing regulations is critical to holding health plans accountable, helping Americans get needed care, and decreasing the enormous health care and social costs of under-treated mental health and addiction. If you would like to show your support for the comments but don’t know where to start, [click here](https://qxty-zgph.maillist-manage.com/click/1262069b58a805b4/1262069b58a7f2d0) to use the comments generated by The Kennedy Forum and our advocacy partners.

**The comment period has been extended until October 17** so stay tuned to hear more from us as we approach that deadline. Also, check out our [information page](https://qxty-zgph.maillist-manage.com/click/1262069b58a805b4/1262069b58a7f2d2) for more information and resources on the rulemaking process, and be sure to read [Politico’s piece](https://qxty-zgph.maillist-manage.com/click/1262069b58a805b4/1262069b58a7f2d4) that paints a vivid picture of the situation and the urgency to finalize the proposed rules.

Wit v United Behavioral Health.  In August 2023, a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court issued a third ruling vacating its January 2023 opinion and replacing it with a new opinion (1) holding that plaintiffs in the case did have standing to bring their claims forward; (2) holding that the district court did not err in certifying three classes to pursue the fiduciary duty claim, but reversing the district court’s certification of the denial of class benefits; (3) holding that the district court erred to the extent it determined that the ERISA plans required UBH’s care utilization review guidelines to be coextensive with generally accepted standards of care and reversing the judgment on the plaintiff’s denial of benefits claim; and (4) remanding to the district court to answer the threshold question of whether the fiduciary duty claim was subject to the plans’ administrative exhaustion requirement.

The new ruling allows for the possibility that some plaintiff claims will be reprocessed and a possibility that the district court to issue revised class benefits. With this new ruling in *Wit v. United Behavioral Health,*there is renewed optimism in what lies ahead for ensuring Americans’ rights to mental health and addiction coverage in alignment with clinical standards. We await the district court’s decision.

Visit The Kennedy Forum’s [Wit landing page](https://qxty-zgph.maillist-manage.com/click/1262069b58a805b4/1262069b58a7f2d6) for more details.