

August 15, 2008

The Honorable Mark Warner

1029 North Royal Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Governor Warner:

As the keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> you have the opportunity to bring an important message to the American people about “Renewing America’s Promise”. I am writing you today because I believe we need to renew America’s promise by renewing our core values to help one another – especially those in our society who suffer from drug & alcohol problems.

As a Virginia resident who has found long term recovery from addiction (which means I have been drug and alcohol free for an extended period of time), I have been able to create a better life for myself, my family, and my community. Long term recovery has given me new hope and stability in my life. I’m speaking out and asking for your help because I want others to have the same opportunities I’ve had.

I am concerned because many people in long term recovery to addiction to alcohol and other drugs have experienced insurance discrimination, which means people have been denied life saving treatments. It is time we recognize that we end insurance discrimination by offering the same coverage – parity – for addiction services as we do for other health issues. I believe it is important that part of America’s future ensures we give people every opportunity to improve their lives, and become productive and healthy members of their communities and of our country. What better way is there to renew America’s future than giving the people the tools and opportunity to improve their lives?

I strongly urge you to consider raising this important issue to a nation that is willing to work together and bring change that we not only believe in, but desperately need.

Thank you for your time, and I’ll be watching your speech on the 26<sup>th</sup>, good luck!

Signed,

Address

City