



## Support for Addiction / Mental Health Treatment in Wisconsin

- Support for including addiction treatment in health care reform unites Wisconsinites across party lines, income and demographic groups. A recent poll conducted by the Washington, D.C. firm Lake Research Partners shows that 74 percent of Milwaukeeans support increased access to addiction treatment as part of health care reform, including majorities of Democrats, Independents and Republicans.



In addition, 65 percent said that they would pay an increased monthly health care premium—an extra \$2 per month—to ensure everyone had improved access. This broad, bi-partisan support in Milwaukee mirrors national trends: 77 percent of Americans support including addiction treatment in health reform, 56 percent strongly; and 69 percent of Americans support paying two dollars more per month in health insurance premiums to make addiction treatment more accessible and affordable.<sup>1</sup>

- Expanding and enhancing drug and alcohol treatment programs received unanimous support by the Wisconsin Assembly in its passage of Assembly Bill 283 on Sept. 17, 2009. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill this fall.
- In 2001, the Wisconsin Senate passed SB-157—legislation that, among other provisions, also removed the specified minimum amounts of coverage that a group health insurance policy must provide for the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction and mental illness.
- Both the United States House of Representatives' national health care reform bill, passed Nov. 17, 2009, and the United States Senate bill currently under consideration include parity provisions that must comply with the *Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, P.L. 110-343*<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative. [Milwaukeeans Support Increasing Access to Drug, Alcohol Addiction Treatment, New Poll Shows](http://www.ca-ppi.org/solutions/mati/documents/News_Release_Milwaukeeans_Support_Increasing_Access_to_Drug_Alcohol_Addiction_Treatment_New_.pdf). Found at: [http://www.ca-ppi.org/solutions/mati/documents/News\\_Release\\_Milwaukeeans\\_Support\\_Increasing\\_Access\\_to\\_Drug\\_Alcohol\\_Addiction\\_Treatment\\_New\\_.pdf](http://www.ca-ppi.org/solutions/mati/documents/News_Release_Milwaukeeans_Support_Increasing_Access_to_Drug_Alcohol_Addiction_Treatment_New_.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Legal Action Center ([www.lac.org/](http://www.lac.org/)), a non-profit, public-interest law firm and policy organization located in Washington, D.C. and New York City that specializes in fighting discrimination against and protecting the rights of people with alcohol or drug problems, HIV/AIDS or criminal records.