

**U.S. House of Representatives Supports May as  
Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Month**  
*An Important Step in Raising Awareness*

**NEW YORK, NY – April 16, 2008** – The National Education Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder (NEA-BPD) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) commended the U.S. House of Representatives for its recent Resolution supporting May as Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Month.

On April 1, 2008, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the bipartisan House Resolution (H. Res. 1005) sponsored by Representatives Thomas Davis (R-VA) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) to support the goals and ideals of a Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Month. Representative Davis stated that “Raising awareness of this disease is an important first step toward getting the recognition and research dollars that, hopefully, can help future victims and their families avoid the enormous suffering this disease causes.”

Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) afflicts 4 million adults and adolescents. BPD is a leading cause of suicide, with a suicide rate 400 times the rate of the general public. BPD has a combination of symptoms, including intense fears of abandonment, episodes of rage, self-injury, substance abuse and impulsive behavior. Many with BPD are unable to work. Others may be high functioning in certain settings, though their private lives and relationships are often in turmoil.

Relatively new as an official diagnosis, BPD is decades behind in research, treatment, awareness and family education. Although BPD is as common as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, it is far less known.

According to Perry D. Hoffman, Ph.D., President of NEA-BPD, “BPD is the most misunderstood mental illness, and consequently is often under-recognized and misdiagnosed. Despite the many myths, research shows that there is much HOPE for recovery.”

Michael Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of NAMI, praised Congress, stating that “The designation of May as Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Month is an important opportunity to highlight the seriousness and magnitude of this debilitating condition, as well as to draw public, professional and media attention to this mental illness.”

For more information, contact NAMI’s help line, (800) 950-NAMI, or website at [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org), or visit the NEA-BPD website at [www.neabpd.org](http://www.neabpd.org) (includes a tool kit for raising community awareness).

**About the National Education Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder (NEA-BPD)** - NEA-BPD is a not-for-profit organization started in 2001 by a group of persons with BPD, persons with a relative with BPD, and a mental health professional. NEA-BPD holds annual conferences to disseminate the latest scientific research on causes and treatment of BPD to researchers, clinicians, persons with BPD and family members. See [www.neabpd.org](http://www.neabpd.org).

**About the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** – NAMI is the nation’s largest grassroots organization for people with mental illness and their families. Founded in 1979, NAMI has affiliates in every state and in more than 1,100 local communities across the country. See [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).

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