

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Price,

We urge you to prioritize the historic, bipartisan eating disorders provisions included in Section 13005, 13006, and 13007 as you move forward with the rulemaking process for the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114-255). These provisions derived from the bipartisan Anna Westin Act of 2015 (H.R. 2515/ S. 1865) and the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act (H.R. 2646) were designed to improve health professionals' ability to recognize early warning signs related to eating disorders, increase access to affordable, high-quality treatment, and supply the public with resources to help prevent these disorders. Particularly, we urge a streamlined process including an amendment to existing mental health parity regulations for the Section 13007 eating disorders parity rulemaking.

In December 2016, Congress passed 21st Century Cures with overwhelming bipartisan support, and with a heavy emphasis on improving our nation's mental health care system. Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness. Therefore, we ask that when implementing relevant provisions, you do everything possible to ensure increased access to quality and affordable treatments that will save lives. We also ask that you provide doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals the tools that they need to identify and treat these illnesses.

Patients suffering from eating disorders often have inadequate access to the full continuum of life-saving treatments including residential treatment, partial hospitalization, and intensive outpatient programs (IOP). We know that recovery from even the most serious eating disorders is possible, but restricted access to intermediate levels of care and interruptions in treatment increases the risk of relapse. These relapses can lead to expensive emergency room admissions and intensive treatments with exorbitant costs.

It is for these reasons that we strongly urge you to commence the implementation of the historic eating disorders provisions in the 21st Century Cures Act. These measures hold the promise of recovery for so many Americans, and will help reduce healthcare costs and save thousands of lives around the nation.

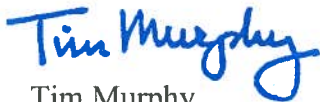
Sincerely,



Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



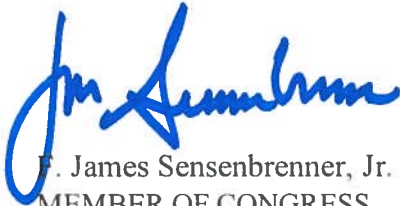
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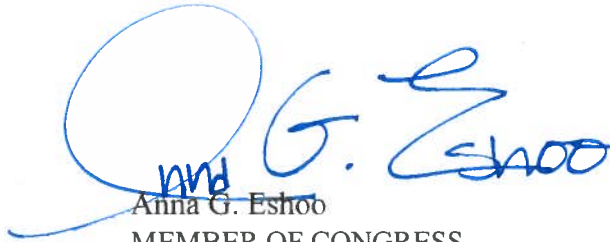
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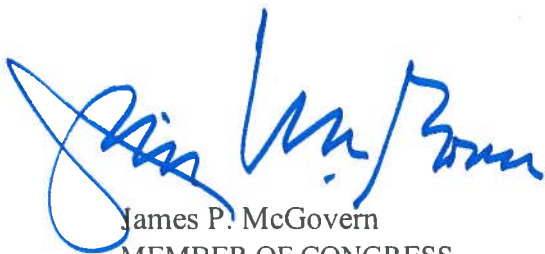
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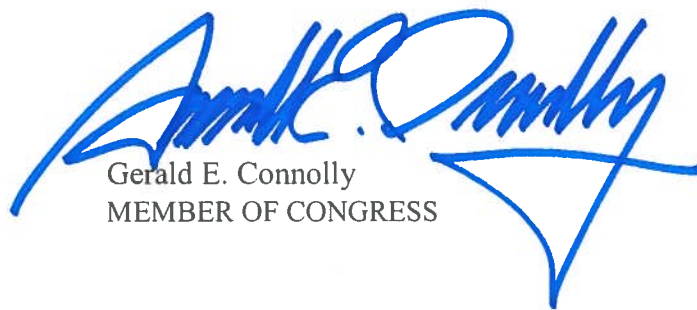
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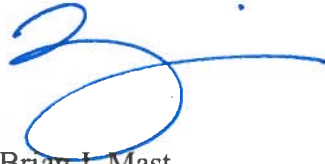
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