



## EDC Releases Top 6 for the 46<sup>th</sup> Eating Disorders Transition Memo for the Biden-Harris Administration

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 14, 2020) — The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is pleased to announce that it has submitted its [Top 6 for the 46<sup>th</sup>: Eating Disorders Transition Memo for the Biden-Harris Administration](#). This memorandum outlines six specific eating disorders items the incoming Biden-Harris Administration can accomplish in its first year. Please note that this list of items is not exhaustive and does not include federal legislation. The EDC plans to work with the Administration and the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress on all issues related to eating disorders.

The first item requests that the Biden-Harris Administration establish a White House Commission on Eating Disorders. Although an informal interdepartmental working group already exists to foster collaboration between agencies on eating disorders issues, a formal and dedicated body is warranted and would feature a broader swath of federal agencies. The purpose of the Commission would be to establish recommendations to improve eating disorders research, awareness, prevention, intervention, and treatment.

The second item encourages the Administration to enact the provisions included in the report language of the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which are based on the Supporting Eating Disorders Recovery through Vital Expansion (SERVE) Act. While the EDC pushed hard in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress to pass the SERVE Act, the Biden-Harris Administration has the ability to implement these provisions without Congressional action. These provisions would remove age restrictions preventing military family members over the age of 20 from accessing care, ensure network adequacy for eating disorders care at all levels, and require Commanding Officers and Supervisory Personnel to engage in early identification training for mental health conditions, including eating disorders.

Third, the EDC requests that the Biden-Harris Administration issue a Presidential Proclamation in honor of World Eating Disorder Action Day and light up the White House in the color lilac to help raise awareness for this condition.

For the fourth item, the EDC requests increased funding for the National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders (NCEED), improved cross-agency collaboration within the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) grant programs, and for NCEED to work with other National Centers of Excellence in order to strengthen the early identification and treatment of eating disorders by health professionals.

The fifth item involves a request for the Administration to resume data collection on disordered eating behaviors through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) public health surveillance surveys. This data collection is vital in understanding eating disorders trends and aids in the development of public health prevention strategies.

Lastly, the EDC requests that the Administration strengthen the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) (P.L. 110-343) by resuming the Consumer Web Portal to provide individuals with resources to address mental health parity concerns, as well as support the \$17 million funding request from the U.S. Department of Labor to increase the agency's capacity to enforce mental health parity.

This list represents only a jumping-off point for collaboration between the EDC and the incoming Biden-Harris Administration. The EDC very much looks forward to working with the Administration to accomplish these initial items, and to the many related opportunities to advance our work on behalf of the eating disorders community.

*The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is a Washington, DC-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of advocacy organizations, academics, treatment providers, family/loved ones of children with eating disorders and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States. Additional resources can also be found at [eatingdisorderscoalition.org](http://eatingdisorderscoalition.org).*

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