

NEW BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY FLORIDA REPRESENTATIVES TO COMBAT EATING DISORDERS; FEATURING CELEBRITY OLYMPIC ATHLETE

Executive Circle

Avalon Hills
Eating Recovery Center
The Emily Program
The Emily Program Foundation
Kantor & Kantor, LLP
Oliver-Pyatt Centers
Residential Eating Disorders Consortium

Policy Circle

Academy for Eating Disorders
The Renfrew Center
Veritas Collaborative

Leadership Circle

Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness
Gail R. Schoenbach FREED Foundation
Monte Nido Treatment Center
Reasons Eating Disorder Center

Advocacy Circle

International Association of Eating
Disorders Professionals Foundation
Laureate Eating Disorders Program
Timberline Knolls

Support Circle

Center for Discovery
Eating Disorder Hope
Eating Disorder Center of Denver
The Eating Disorders Center at Rogers
Memorial Hospital
Focus Treatment Centers
Inner Door Center
Multi-Services Eating Disorders Association
Park Nicollet Melrose Center
Rosewood Centers for Eating Disorders
Walden Behavioral Care

Hope Circle

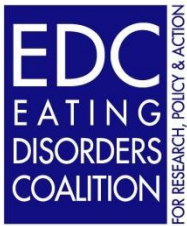
American Anorexia and Bulimia Association
of Philadelphia
BingeBehavior.com
Casa Palmera
Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)
EDN of Maryland
FEAST
FINDINGbalance
Gurze Books
The International Federation of Eating
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McCallum Place
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Rep. Ted Deutch [D-FL-21] and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen [R-FL-27] introduced the Anna Westin Act of 2015 and hosted corresponding Congressional Briefing featuring celebrity Olympic Athlete

Washington, DC, May 21, 2015-- The Anna Westin Act of 2015 (HR 2515) is the first eating disorders legislation to receive bipartisan support at introduction in the past decade. The new bill was designed to help the minimum estimated 14.5 million people experiencing eating disorders throughout the United States receive equal treatment as those with other health issues.

The enactment of the Anna Westin Act of 2015 would improve care for eating disorders by providing training for physicians, health professionals, school personnel, and the public as well as treatment coverage. The bill combats eating disorders by addressing the “Three T’s,” training, treatment and truth in advertising. The Anna Westin Act of 2015 clarifies the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity Act of 2008 and uses existing federal funds to provide the training.

“Too often people with eating disorders are forced to battle their illnesses alone because of stigma, lack of knowledge, and obstacles to appropriate treatment. That is why I am introducing the Anna Westin Act.” said Congressman Ted Deutch. “Anna’s story has inspired me to keep fighting for better training for intervention and prevention, better protections for access to treatment, and a better understanding of the connections between the unrealistic body images that inundate us on a daily basis and these deadly disorders.



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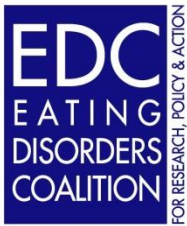
Recovery is possible, and this bill will help that possibility become a reality for more Americans.”

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen adds, “I’m proud to introduce the Anna Westin Act with Congressman Deutch to bring attention to the eating disorders that unfortunately plague our young women and men. Having medical professionals, school personnel, and the public be able to recognize the signs of an eating disorder, and improving access to predictable and safe care can only benefit our community. Additionally, encouraging the FTC, health experts, consumer advocacy groups, and advertisers to work together to reduce materially altered facial and body images in ads will help stop some eating disorders before they occur. We must continue to work for the day when young women and men do not take drastic and harmful actions to conform to an unrealistic ideal of perfection.”

The legislation received its name in observance of a 21-year-old girl from Minnesota who lost her life to eating disorders. Her insurance company refused to cover the costs of her inpatient treatment and the consequences were fatal. In order to prevent other families and friends from experiencing similar tragedies, Kitty Westin, mother of Anna Westin, established Minnesota’s The Anna Westin Foundation (*now The Emily Program Foundation*) and other resources to help people experiencing eating disorders. If you want to learn more you can refer to this video produced by [EveryDayMatters](#), a forum established by [Netsmart](#) for those who are cause-connected, passionate and vision-driven about opportunities for recovery in the mental health community:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InpNIaSHSkA>.

Kitty Westin notes, “It is hard to find adequate words to express how I feel about the Anna Westin Act. I feel great sorrow, elation



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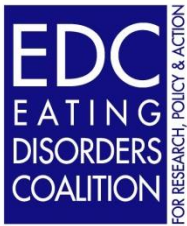
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and most of all HOPE. Sorrow because this comes too late for Anna and I miss her every day. Elation because The Anna Westin Act will prevent others from suffering like Anna and our family. HOPE because after 15 years of hard work and commitment I believe that together we will pass the Anna Westin Act and the result will help millions of people and save countless lives.”

In recognition and support of the new legislation, Rep. Deutch and Rep. Ros-Lehtinen in conjunction with the Eating Disorders Coalition, hosted a Congressional Briefing on May 13, 2015 to increase awareness around the need for eating disorders prevention and treatment. The briefing featured the Olympian Brittany Viola, 2012 USA Olympic Diver of Miami, Florida, and other eating disorder specialists who spoke to the effects of and issues in treating eating disorders, as well as, stress the need for congressional action.

Throughout May 13th advocates from all over the nation including Olympian Brittany Viola, treatment centers such as Avalon Hills, Center for Change, and Veritas Collaborative, as well as numerous parents of children with eating disorders and individuals experiencing eating disorders made approximately 65 visits to Congressional offices to advocate for the bill.

“As someone who struggled and recovered from a 10-year battle with eating disorders in the state of Florida, I am so honored that my congressman, Representative Deutch, alongside Representative Ros-Lehtinen, are championing this life-saving bill. With proper detection, early intervention, and necessary treatment, people can and do recover from eating disorders. Eating disorders are not a partisan issue, and The Anna Westin Act has the potential to save thousands of lives,” noted Johanna Kandel, CEO of Alliance for Eating Disorders and Board President of the Eating Disorders Coalition.



The Eating Disorders Coalition is a coalition of Residential Treatment providers, advocacy organizations and entities, parents of children with eating disorders, and people with eating disorders. For more information regarding the Anna Westin Act of 2015 or the Lobby Day and Congressional Briefing, contact Katrina Mason at 202-241-6617 or kmason@eatingdisorderscoalition.org. Additional resources can also be found at www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org.

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