



Executive Circle
Eating Recovery Center
The Emily Program
The Emily Program Foundation
Kantor & Kantor, LLP
Oliver-Pyatt Centers
Residential Eating Disorders Consortium
Veritas Collaborative

Policy Circle
Academy for Eating Disorders
The Renfrew Center

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

Advocacy Circle
Binge Eating Disorder Association
Center for Change
Laureate Eating Disorders Program
Timberline Knolls

Support Circle
Cambridge Eating Disorder Center
Castlewood Treatment Center
Center for Discovery
Eating Disorder Center of Denver
Eating Disorder Hope
International Eating Disorder Action
Mirasol Eating Disorder Recovery Centers
Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association
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Congress Makes History by Passing First-Ever Eating Disorders Legislation

Legislation led by Senator Baldwin passes Congress in larger mental health and 21st Century Cures package today, set to help the over 192,000 people in Wisconsin currently experiencing an eating disorder

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 7, 2016) — Today is a historic day for the 30 million Americans experiencing an eating disorder in their lifetimes and the more than 192,000 currently suffering in Wisconsin alone. For the first time in history, Congress passed legislation specifically designed to help people with eating disorders. The bill will reach President Barack Obama's desk within the week and is expected to be signed into law given the President's [recent support statement](#) for the legislation.

The House Amendment to the Senate Amendment of H.R. 34, which includes the 21st Century Cures and Mental Health Reform Act of 2016 along with other health funding authorizations, passed the House of Representatives with a 392-26 vote on November 30th and the Senate today by 94-5. The legislation includes key provisions from Senator Tammy Baldwin's bipartisan, bicameral Anna Westin Act of 2015 (S. 1865), including clarification of existing mental health parity law to improve health insurance coverage for eating disorders and life-saving residential treatment, early identification of eating disorders trainings for health professional such as doctors, and enhanced information and resources to help early identification of eating disorders by the public.

Nathan Libbey of Burlington, Wisconsin, whose late wife Jennifer passed in 2014 after a 16 year battle with an eating disorder stated, "Jennifer and I frequently discussed the power her voice would have once she defeated her eating disorder. There is an adage that negative voices always play the loudest: Unfortunately, her voice resonated with lawmakers from the grave and not from a pedestal of triumph. Today, however, she is triumphant, our children our triumphant, and individuals with eating disorders in Wisconsin and throughout our great nation are triumphant."

"I am proud to have worked across party lines to enact the essential reforms of the *Anna Westin Act*, which I worked on with Senators Klobuchar, Capito and Ayotte, to improve access to affordable treatment for those struggling with eating disorders and to help health professionals better recognize and understand eating disorders," **said Senator Baldwin**. "I have heard from too many Wisconsin families who have not been able to afford the quality eating disorder care and residential treatment that they need. Women and men with eating disorders deserve the same access to quality health care that is available to individuals who are suffering from medical conditions and other mental health illnesses. I applaud today's passage of the Anna Westin Act, which will take significant steps to improve prevention, treatment, and diagnosis to better support the 192,000 Wisconsinites who are struggling with an eating disorder."

Senator Baldwin introduced the Anna Westin Act of 2015 in July 2015 along with her colleagues Senator Amy Klobuchar [D-MN], Shelley Moore Capito [R-WV] and Kelly Ayotte [R-NH]. The Anna Westin Act was named in honor of Chaska, Minnesota-



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native Anna Westin who struggled with anorexia for five years and lost her life due to the illness at the young age of 21. To learn more about Anna's story, Netsmart's EveryDayMatters created a short video that can be [viewed here](#).

Since the bill's introduction, Baldwin has lead a call to action for her colleagues and the Wisconsin delegation to support this life-saving bill, securing support from Congressman Mark Pocan [D-WI-2], Congressman Ron Kind [D-WI-3], and Congressman James Sensenbrenner [R-WI-5].

The Eating Disorders Coalition is a Washington, D.C.-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of treatment providers, advocacy organizations and entities, parents of children with eating disorders, and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. For more information contact Katrina Velasquez at the Eating Disorders Coalition at kvelasquez@eatingdisorderscoalition.org. Additional resources can also be found at www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org.