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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Congressman Tom Price, M.D. visits The Renfrew Center of Atlanta to discuss the deadliest mental illness and pending legislation**

**ATLANTA** (March 10, 2016) — The Renfrew Center, celebrating its 30th Anniversary as the nation's first residential eating disorder treatment facility, along with the Eating Disorders Coalition, announced today that Congressman Tom Price, M.D. will visit The Renfrew Center of Atlanta to tour the facility and discuss a piece of eating disorders legislation called the Anna Westin Act of 2015 (HR 2515).

Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness, and affect women at a rate of 2.5 times more than men. Over 30 million Americans experience an eating disorder during their lifetime, however, only one in ten will receive treatment for their disorder often due to stigma, a shortage of early identification and intervention, and lack of access to treatment. In Georgia alone, there are more than 340,000 people suffering with an eating disorder.

The Anna Westin Act is designed to train health professionals and school personnel to recognize eating disorders, clarify existing laws on health insurance coverage for treatment services, and examine photoshopped advertisements of models as it relates to fair advertising practices and laws.

“We are honored to have Congressman Price visit the site,” said Samuel E. Menaged, JD, Founder and President of The Renfrew Centers. “Here at Renfrew we know that the earlier an eating disorder is detected and specialized treatment is received, the greater chance an individual has in leading a life free of their eating disorder. By visiting this center he is showing his support to those battling these disorders.”

Renfrew opened its Atlanta location in the spring of 2013 after receiving feedback from professionals and community members and observing an overwhelming demand for services in the area. The site is under the leadership of Site Director, Jenifer Harcourt, LPC.

Renfrew’s treatment philosophy emphasizes a respect for the unique psychology of women, the importance of a collaborative therapeutic relationship, and the belief that every woman needs to actively participate in her own recovery. Drs. Gayle Brooks and Susan Ice, internationally recognized experts in the eating disorder field, oversee the clinical operations of Renfrew’s 16 locations. Its two residential facilities are located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Coconut Creek, Florida.

The Renfrew Center works directly with most major insurance companies and routinely petitions out-of-network carriers to extend benefits to its patients. Renfrew is recognized as a leader in the eating disorders field having treated more than 65,000 adolescent girls and women and trained more than 30,000 professionals.

### **About The Renfrew Center**

The Renfrew Center, a pioneer in eating disorder treatment and research, has treated more than 65,000 women with eating disorders and other behavioral health issues and trained more than 25,000 professionals. It has facilities in California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas. For additional information about The Renfrew Center or any of its programs and services, please call 1-800-RENFREW.

### **About The Eating Disorders Coalition**

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](mailto:kvelasquez@eatingdisorderscoalition.org). Additional resources can also be found at [www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org](http://www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org).

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