

# EDC ON THE HILL

## 2021

### March Newsletter



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#### **Eating Disorders Coalition Capitol Hill 2021 Virtual Advocacy Day**

If you haven't already, please register for the Eating Disorders Coalition Capitol Hill 2021 Virtual Advocacy Day, taking place on May 6! This year, the exclusive focus of the advocacy day will be convincing Members of Congress to support the EDC's flagship piece of legislation, the Nutrition CARE Act. You can register for the advocacy day [here](#).



#### **EDC Applauds Nutrition CARE Act Reintroduction in House and Senate**

The EDC is happy to inform the community that the Nutrition CARE Act ([H.R. 1551/S. 584](#)) was reintroduced in both the House and Senate at the beginning of March. The House bill is led by Reps. Judy Chu (D-CA-27), Jackie Walorski (R-IN-02), and Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE-AL), and the Senate bill is led by Sens. Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). The House bill already has 27 bipartisan co-sponsors, and the Senate bill has 3 bipartisan co-sponsors.

#### **New Co-Sponsors of the SERVE Act ([H.R. 1309/S. 194](#))**

As mentioned in the last edition of the EDC newsletter, the SERVE Act was reintroduced in both chambers in February. In March, Reps. Bacon (R-NE-2), Morelle, (D-NY-25), Peters (D-CA-52), Porter (D-CA-45), Jacobs (D-CA-53), McBath (D-GA-6), DeGette (D-CO-1), Carbajal (D-CA-24), Dean (D-PA-4), and Hartzler (R-MO-4) became the latest co-sponsors of the SERVE Act in the House. In the Senate, Sen. Baldwin (D-WI) and Sen. Murphy (D-CT) both became co-sponsors.

#### **National Nutrition Month**

March marked National Nutrition Month. In honor of this month, the EDC published social media posts revolving around the Nutrition CARE Act and expressions of gratitude by community members to the bill leads, appreciation for dietitians, and highlighting statistics related to eating disorders, food insecurity, and more. To review the EDC's social posts from the past month, you can check out our Twitter feed [here](#), and our Facebook feed [here](#).

#### **Parity Enforcement Act ([H.R. 1364](#))**

The EDC endorsed the Parity Enforcement Act, led by Rep. Norcross (D-NJ-01), Vice-Chair of the Bipartisan Opioid Task Force, along with the Bipartisan Opioid Task Force Co-Chairs, Reps. Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01) and Kuster (D-NH-02), and Rep. Courtney (D-CT-02). This bill would improve the U.S. Department of Labor's ability to hold health insurers or plan sponsors responsible for having health plans that violate the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. A press release on the legislation, which includes links to the bill text and a fact sheet, can be read [here](#).

### **EDC Announces Collaboration on Eating Disorders Prevention in Schools**

The EDC is pleased to announce that it has partnered with [The Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness](#) and [Be Real USA](#) to advance the Eating Disorders Prevention in Schools Act (EDPSA) in the 117th Congress. This legislation would integrate eating disorders prevention within Local School Wellness Policies (LSWPs) and encourage screening for eating disorders in schools. To learn more, read the full press release [here](#).

### **U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Hearing on Child Nutrition Reauthorization**

In mid-March, the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry held a hearing on Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR). CNR gives the federal government the power to reform child nutrition programs, including Local School Wellness Policies. Dr. Lee Savio Beers, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, served as one of the witnesses for the hearing. In her written testimony, Dr. Beers addressed the rise in both the prevalence and severity of eating disorders in the U.S. during the pandemic, which has been especially pronounced in children and young people. Her full testimony can be found [here](#).

### **EDC Letters of Support**

#### **Nutrition CARE Act**

The EDC led a letter to the Senate Committee on Finance, House Committee on Energy & Commerce Committee, and House Committee on Ways & Means leadership, urging them to advance the Nutrition CARE Act and bring the bill forward for consideration. Read the full letter [here](#).

#### **SERVE Act**

The EDC signed on to a Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) letter in support of the SERVE Act, which would improve access to care, early identification, and quality of care for servicemembers and military family members affected by eating disorders. Read the full letter [here](#).

#### **Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (H.R. 1667)**

The EDC signed on to a Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) letter in support of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, which would help reduce and prevent suicide and mental and behavioral health conditions among health care professionals. Read the letter [here](#).

#### **Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program**

The EDC signed on to a letter led by the American Academy of Pediatrics to House and Senate appropriations committee leadership requesting \$50 million in funding for the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program (PSLRP) in the House and Senate Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education and Related Agencies appropriations bills. See the House letter [here](#), and the Senate letter [here](#).

#### **Eating Disorders Personal Story Collection**

The Eating Disorders Coalition continues to collect stories from our advocates on their experiences as military members, veterans, and their families who are/were affected by eating disorders in order to inform our advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and develop a strong grassroots network of advocates across the U.S.

We are also collecting personal stories and advocacy interest from individuals on Medicare including persons aged 65 years of age and older and persons experiencing disabilities, and non-Medicare recipients who have had issues gaining insurance coverage for Nutrition Counseling (i.e. dietitian services) for their eating disorder.

If you have personal experiences with any of these issues, please fill out this [survey](#) for military and this [survey](#) for Medicare, disability, and/or Nutrition Counseling coverage.

#### **EDC Action Alerts**

The Eating Disorders Coalition continues to engage our community through Action Alerts via email and text message. We need your voice to contact elected officials to further important eating disorder legislative priorities. Would you like to be notified about Action Alerts via our new text message advocacy system in the future? Sign up through this [link](#).

## **Thank you to our members who support EDC's successful policy efforts!**

#### **Champions Circle**

- REDC Consortium

#### **Support Circle**

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)

**Executive Circle**

- Clementine
- Eating Recovery Center
- The Emily Program
- Monte Nido
- Oliver-Pyatt Centers
- Veritas Collaborative
- WithAll
- SunCloud Health

**Policy Circle**

- Academy for Eating Disorders
- Be Real USA
- National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA)
- The Renfrew Center

**Leadership Circle**

- Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness
- Bannister Consultancy
- The Donahue Foundation
- Gail R. Schoenbach FREED Foundation
- International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals Foundation (iaedp)
- Montecatini

**Advocacy Circle**

- Center for Change
- Laureate Eating Disorders Program
- Walden Behavioral Care

- Alsana: Eating Disorders Treatment and Recovery Centers
- Cambridge Eating Disorder Center
- Center for Discovery
- Eating Disorders Hope
- Farrington Specialty Counseling
- Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association
- Park Nicollet Melrose Center
- Rosewood Centers for Eating Disorders
- Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED)
- Stay Strong Virginia

**Hope Circle**

- Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)
- International Federation of Eating Disorders Dietitians (IFEDD)
- Moonshadow's Spirit
- Project HEAL
- The National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD)
- Rogers Behavioral Health
- Wrobel & Smith, PLLP

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