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!
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

Stay in touch!

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