



Eating Disorders Coalition Releases Official Letter Requesting the Inclusion of the Nutrition CARE Act Within Cures 2.0

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 3, 2020) – In December, the Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action submitted a letter to the offices of Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI), urging the Representatives to consider including the text of the bipartisan Nutritional Counseling Aiding Recovery for Eating Disorders Act of 2019 (Nutrition CARE Act) ([H.R. 3711/S. 2907](#)), within the planned Cures 2.0 legislative package. A copy of the letter can be accessed [here](#).

The Cures 2.0 package aims to build upon the success of the DeGette/Upton-led 21st Century Cures Act of 2016, which incorporated provisions of the groundbreaking Anna Westin Act of 2015, a bill that helped increase access to eating disorders treatment and led to the creation of the SAMSHA National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders (NCEED), among other milestones. The stated goal of Cures 2.0 legislation is to modernize coverage and access to life-saving cures for people in the United States and abroad.

The Nutrition CARE Act, which currently has 20 combined supporters in the House and Senate, would provide Medicare outpatient coverage for Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) for those affected by eating disorders. This would establish parity between eating disorders and diseases such as diabetes and renal disease, for which MNT is already covered under Medicare.

The letter stresses that the Nutrition CARE Act falls directly under one of Cures 2.0's top objectives: to improve Medicare coverage in order to help patients access life-saving forms of care. It cites a position statement from the American Dietetic Association, which asserts that the nutritional therapy described in the Nutrition CARE Act is absolutely necessary for the effective treatment of potentially deadly eating disorders across the continuum of care. It clarifies that eating disorders don't just affect younger segments of the population, asserting that 3-4 percent of seniors suffer from an eating disorder, as well as 3 percent of males and 6 percent of females on Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). Further, eating disorders are in fact especially life-threatening for those with disabilities and the elderly, who are particularly susceptible to medical complications associated with untreated eating disorders, such as heart failure, stroke, and osteoporosis.

Following a public call for policy ideas, the offices of Representatives DeGette (D-CO) and Upton (R-MI) are currently in the process of reviewing submitted letters and hope to introduce Cures 2.0 legislation later this year.

The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is a Washington, DC-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of advocacy organizations, academics, treatment providers, family/loved ones of children with eating disorders and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States. Additional resources can also be found at eatingdisorderscoalition.org.

Media Contact: Luke Kopetsky: lkopetsky@eatingdisorderscoalition.org

