

# EDC ON THE HILL

## 2020

### June Newsletter



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#### [New Co-Sponsors of the Nutrition CARE Act \(H.R. 3711/S. 2907\)](#)

The Eating Disorders Coalition is happy to announce a batch of additional co-sponsors of our flagship legislation, the bipartisan Nutrition CARE Act, a bill which would establish Medical Nutrition Therapy as a covered outpatient benefit under Medicare. In the past month, Reps. Connolly (D-VA), Beatty (D-OH), Van Drew (R-NJ), Payne (D-NJ), Lawson (D-FL), Pocan (D-WI), and Spanberger (D-VA) all signed on as co-sponsors of the Nutrition CARE Act.

#### [New Co-Sponsors of the SERVE Act \(H.R. 2767/S.2673\)](#)

The Eating Disorders Coalition is pleased to announce new co-sponsors of the bipartisan SERVE Act, which would significantly increase access to residential eating disorders treatment under TRICARE for servicemembers and their families. Reps. Connolly (D-VA), Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Trahan (D-MA), and Katko (R-NY), along with Sen. Van Hollen (D-MD), all became co-sponsors of the SERVE Act.

#### [Senate Armed Services Committee Passes Report Language Based on the SERVE Act](#)

The Eating Disorders Coalition applauds Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Martha McSally (R-AZ) for their leadership in including report language based on the bipartisan SERVE Act within the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2021. The language was successfully voted through the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC). Read the full press release [here](#).

#### [STRIPED & AED Release Groundbreaking Report entitled, “Social and Economic Cost of Eating Disorders in the U.S.”](#)

The Eating Disorders Coalition applauds our coalition members, Academy for Eating Disorders and the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders in partnership with Deloitte Access Economics on a report that will greatly enhance our efforts to make eating disorders a public health priority. The report reveals the impact eating disorders have on individuals, families, loved ones, and society as a whole. You can access the full report, key takeaways, and related media [here](#). Our full statement addressing the importance of this research can be read [here](#).

#### [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Introduces the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act \(H.R. 6971\)](#)



The Eating Disorders Coalition celebrates our coalition member, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, on their formal introduction of the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act, led by Reps. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Pete King (R-NY). The legislation would provide MNT coverage for several medical conditions including cancer, hypertension, celiac disease, eating disorders, and more. You can read more about the legislation [here](#).

### **Injustice, Racism, and Us—a Call to Listen, Learn, and Act**

The Eating Disorders Coalition acknowledges the injustices, prejudices, and indignities faced by the Black community every day in a statement from EDC President Chase Bannister. The statement expresses a renewed commitment to take action and examine where the EDC falls short in advocating for systemic change. Read the full statement [here](#).

### **Major LGBTQIA Victory Reached in the Supreme Court—More Work Remains**

The Eating Disorders Coalition celebrates the ruling reached by the Supreme Court of the United States declaring that workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual identity is illegal, but also recognizing more work is ahead of us until equality is reached. Read the statement in its entirety [here](#).

### **EDC Letters of Support**

#### **Mental Health/Substance Use Care & Treatment Provisions in Next COVID-19 Package**

The Eating Disorders Coalition co-led a Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) letter to Senate leadership urging them to make substantial investments and critical policy changes to mitigate the mental health and substance use-related effects of COVID-19, the impact on individuals and families, and the economic impacts on the providers they rely on for their care. Read the full letter [here](#).

#### **COVID-19 Mental Health Research Act (H.R. 6645)**

The Eating Disorders Coalition joined a Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) letter to the House Committee on Energy & Commerce leadership and Health Subcommittee leadership in support of the Mental Health Research Act, which would help conduct and support research on the mental health consequences of COVID-19. Read the full letter [here](#).

#### **Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) Increase**

The Eating Disorders Coalition signed onto a Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) letter to Senate leadership, urging the Senate to raise the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) in order to assist state Medicaid programs. Read the full letter [here](#).

#### **Public Health Infrastructure**

The Eating Disorders Coalition along with 250 other organizations joined a letter, led by Trust for America's Health, to Congress urging for investments in public health infrastructure across the nation, as states rebuild from COVID-19. Read the full 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**

- Residential Eating Disorders 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

**Policy Circle**

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

**Leadership Circle**

- Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness
- Bannister Consultancy
- The Donahue Foundation
- Focus Treatment Center
- Gail R. Schoenbach FREED Foundation
- International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals Foundation (iaedp)
- Reasons Eating Disorder Center

**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
- The Center for Eating Disorders at Sheppard Pratt
- Eating Disorder Hope
- Mirasol Eating Disorder Recovery Centers
- Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association
- Park Nicollet Melrose Center
- Rosewood Centers for Eating Disorders
- Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED)

**Hope Circle**

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

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