

EDC ON THE HILL

2020

April Newsletter



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

The Eating Disorders Coalition is pleased to announce the addition of Congressman Mike Doyle (D-PA) as the latest supporter of the EDC's latest legislative initiative. Rep. Doyle is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has partial jurisdiction over the legislation.

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

The Eating Disorders Coalition is happy to announce new co-sponsors of the bipartisan SERVE Act, a bill which would increase access to eating disorders care under TRICARE for servicemembers and their families. In April, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Congressman Harley Rouda (D-CA) became the latest Members of Congress to co-sponsor this piece of legislation.



[Statement from EDC President: Legislative Achievements for Eating Disorders in the Time of COVID-19—the CARES Act and Beyond](#)

The Eating Disorders Coalition released a statement from EDC President Chase Bannister, detailing key legislative victories the EDC has helped make possible in the time of COVID-19. The EDC will continue to ensure that federal policy advances critical access to eating disorders coverage and treatment for all. Read the full statement [here](#).

[Action Alert Recap: Support Telehealth Access/Coverage & Affordable Insurance for the Recently Unemployed/Furloughed in 3rd COVID-19 Legislative Package](#)

On April 21, the EDC sent out an Action Alert urging advocates across the country to reach out to their Members of Congress and urge them to support telemental health services and affordable health insurance for recently furloughed or unemployed individuals. The response rate to this Action Alert was substantial, 1,596 advocates sent 4,981 emails and tweets to their Senators and Representatives. Thank you so much to everyone who participated for using your voice to make a difference!

[Call for Advocates and Stories from Servicemembers and Their Families Affected by Eating Disorders in Key Districts/States](#)

The Eating Disorders Coalition requests stories from servicemembers and their families who have been impacted by an eating disorder from key legislative districts/states including: Colorado-5th District (Colorado Springs), Iowa-All, Missouri-4th District (Columbia), New York-24th District (Syracuse), Nebraska-All, Ohio-10th District (Dayton), Tennessee-All, Virginia-1st District (Fredericksburg), and Wyoming-All. Click [here](#) to submit a story, and click [here](#) to join our advocacy network.

COVID-ED Research Study: How COVID-19 is Affecting the Lives of People with Eating Disorders

The University of North Carolina Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders, in collaboration with the National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders (NCEED), aims to examine how COVID-19 affects the lives of people with eating disorders. Anyone age 18 or over who has had an eating disorder at any time in their life is welcome to enroll. The researchers will conduct monthly follow up with participants and use the results to help find better ways of addressing the needs of people with eating disorders. You can find the survey [here](#), and more information on the study [here](#).

EDC Letters of Support

Federal Program to Subsidize COBRA Continuation Coverage

The Eating Disorders Coalition led a letter, on behalf of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), to House and Senate leadership urging them to support a federal program to subsidize COBRA continuation health coverage for Americans and families who have lost coverage due to furloughs and layoffs associated with COVID-19. Read the full letter [here](#).

ERISA Plan Telehealth Coverage

The Eating Disorders Coalition led a letter, on behalf of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) to House and Senate leadership in support of providing temporary statutory authority to the Department of Labor that would allow the agency to ensure all ERISA plans cover telehealth services, including mental health and addiction treatment. Read the full letter [here](#).

Audio-Only Communications for Medicare

The Eating Disorders Coalition lent its support to a letter led by the Jewish Federations of North America to the Department of Health & Human Services Secretary (HHS) Alex Azar and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma. The letter urges for the immediate expansion of Medicare coverage for audio-only communications during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Read the full letter [here](#). As a result of this letter and similar efforts, CMS just released new [guidance](#) allowing for audio-only telehealth for certain services, including those provided by behavioral health care providers.

Telemental Health Coverage

The Eating Disorders Coalition joined over 55 organizations to support a letter, in tandem with a petition led by the Psychotherapy Action Network, urging for several telemental health coverage provisions within upcoming COVID-19 relief packages. The final letter was sent to House and Senate leadership and to the Secretary of Labor. Read the full letter [here](#).

Responding to the Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Caused by COVID-19

The Eating Disorders Coalition joined a letter to Congress, urging them to take immediate action in the 4th COVID-19 relief bill to prevent the behavioral health system from collapsing and to mitigate a greater public health and economic crisis from untreated mental illness and addiction. Read the full letter [here](#).

Equitable Access to Testing and Treatment during COVID-19

The Eating Disorders Coalition recently signed onto a letter led by Families USA, urging House and Senate leadership to ensure that all individuals have equitable access to testing and treatment for COVID-19; equip states and localities with sufficient financial support to combat the crisis; provide protection and support to the health care workforce and others on the frontlines of the pandemic; assure access and capacity in the health system; and protect against high and unexpected health care costs. Read the full letter [here](#).

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

Executive Circle

- Clementine
- Eating Recovery Center
- The Emily Program

Support Circle

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)
- Alsana: Eating Disorders Treatment and Recovery Centers
- Cambridge Eating Disorder Center
- Center for Discovery

- 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

- 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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