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**For Immediate Release**

## **EDC Policy Director Katrina Velasquez Awarded 2017 Excellence in Advocacy in a Federal Issue Campaign**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 10, 2017) — On Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, the Professional Women in Advocacy announced the awardees of the 2017 Excellence in Advocacy awards in six categories, including Excellence in a Federal Issue Campaign. CNN's Alisyn Camerota and The Bryce Harlow Foundation Board Member Arshi Siddiqui opened the awards ceremony, recognizing finalists in all six categories.

Amongst other well-deserving advocates who were selected as [finalists for the award](#), Eating Disorders Coalition Policy Director Katrina Velasquez, Esq., MA was selected as the winner of the Excellence in Advocacy in a Federal Issue Campaign for her work in passing the Anna Westin Act within 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures. This award recognizes an effort wherein a female advocate successfully impacted the outcome of a federal legislative or regulatory problem/opportunity on behalf of her cause, issue, client, organization or coalition. Following the award ceremony, Mrs. Velasquez and the other awardees were featured in Washington, D.C.'s political newspaper "The Hill" on November 7, 2017 (Vol. 24, No. 98).



"There is no greater challenge than representing a cause, industry or organization when the stakes are high, resources are low and the difference between succeeding or losing in a fight is the quality of the advocate," said LeeAnn Petersen, CEO of the Professional Women in Advocacy Conference.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act included key provisions from the bipartisan, bicameral Anna Westin Act of 2015 (S. 1865 / H.R. 2515) to increase access to eating disorder treatment health insurance coverage, train health professionals such as doctors and nurses to early identify eating disorders, and enhance information and resources to improve early identification of eating disorders by the public. The Anna Westin Act was named in honor of Minnesota-native Anna Westin, who struggled with anorexia for five years and lost her life due to the illness at the young age of 21. To learn more about Anna's story, Netsmart's EveryDayMatters created a short video that can be [viewed here](#).

*The Eating Disorders Coalition is a Washington, D.C.-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of treatment providers, advocacy organizations and entities, parents of children with eating disorders, and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. Additional resources can also be found at [www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org](http://www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org). ###*