EDC ON THE HILL
2021
February Newsletter

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EDC Launches Virtual Advocacy Day 2021
The EDC is happy to announce that EDC Virtual Advocacy Day 2021, taking place on May 6, has been officially launched and is accepting registrations. As with last year’s virtual advocacy day, participants in this year’s event will meet with Hill staffers for their Members of Congress to advocate on behalf of the EDC’s policy priorities. To register for EDC Virtual Advocacy Day 2021, please click here.

EDC Applauds SERVE Act Reintroduction in House and Senate
The EDC is pleased to inform the community that the bipartisan SERVE Act (H.R. 1309/S. 194) has been reintroduced in the House and Senate. This bill would extend the age limit for military family members to access residential eating disorders care from 20 years of age to the Medicare-eligibility age, require the Secretary of Defense to take measures to identify, treat, and rehabilitate servicemembers battling eating disorders, and require the DoD and VA to create clinical practice guidelines for eating disorders treatment to ensure high-quality care. The bill is led by Sens. Shaheen (D-NH) and Tillis (R-NC), and Reps. Moulton (D-MA), Katko (R-NY) and Escobar (D-TX). Read the Senate reintroduction press release here, and the House reintroduction press release here.

“SERVE Military Members & Families” Virtual Congressional Briefing
On February 25, the EDC co-hosted a briefing with the REDC Consortium and the National Military Family Association (NMFA), in coordination with the Congressional Mental Health Caucus and the Congressional Military Family Caucus, entitled “SERVE Military Members & Families.” This briefing examined eating disorders and mental health issues among servicemembers and their families, and focused on new research examining the increased risk and unique needs of servicemembers and their families affected by eating disorders. To view a recording of the briefing, click here.

National Nutrition Month and Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day
March is designated as National Nutrition Month, and March 10 marks Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day. In honor of this day and this month, the EDC will be publishing social posts revolving around appreciation for dietitians; amplifying our legislation, the Nutrition CARE Act; and eating disorders among different populations. As part of our social media efforts to shine a light on the great work done by eating disorder dietitians, we are seeking stories regarding how a dietitian has positively impacted your eating disorder treatment and/or recovery. To submit stories, click here.

National Eating Disorders Awareness Week
For National Eating Disorders Awareness Week from February 22-28, the EDC collaborated with the National Military Family Association (NMFA) to promote education and awareness on social media around the issue of eating disorders among members of the armed forces and their families. Social posts included quotes from military mental health professionals and factoids on eating disorders in the military. To view the EDC’s Twitter posts, click here; to view the EDC’s Facebook posts, click here.

Harvard STRIPED Advocacy Playbook
Harvard’s Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED), an EDC member organization, recently released its STRIPED Advocacy Playbook. The playbook includes guidance on how to implement an effective legislative campaign, as well as helpful resources related to specific advocacy campaigns and corresponding pieces of model legislation. To access the playbook, click here.

EDC Letters of Support

Public Health Emergency Extension and Telehealth Flexibilities (EDC-led)
The Eating Disorders Coalition led a letter to Norris Cochran, Acting Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, thanking him for his recent letter to Governors stating the public health emergency (PHE) declaration will likely remain in place throughout 2021, which allows for the continuation of much needed telehealth flexibilities. The full letter can be found here.

TREAT Act
The Eating Disorders Coalition signed on to a letter to Senate HELP committee leadership, in support of the recent reintroduction of the Temporary Reciprocity to Ensure Access to Treatment (TREAT) Act, which would increase access to health care services during the national COVID-19 public health emergency by allowing practitioners with valid licenses to provide services, including telehealth services, in all states for the duration of the public health emergency. Read the full letter here.

$4.5B for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Public Health Infrastructure
The Eating Disorders Coalition signed on to a letter led by Trust for America's Health to House and Senate leadership, requesting $4.5 billion in long-term, additional annual funding for CDC, state, local, tribal, and territorial core public health infrastructure to modernize the nation’s public health system, rebuild the workforce, and promote healthier communities. Read the full letter here.

Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program
The Eating Disorders Coalition joined a letter led by the American Academy of Pediatrics to House and Senate leadership, urging the inclusion in future COVID-19 response funding of an additional $16 million to expand the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to all states, D.C., and the territories. To access the full letter, click 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
- REDC Consortium

### 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
- 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
- Montecatini

### Advocacy Circle
- Center for Change
- Laureate Eating Disorders Program
- Walden Behavioral Care

### Support Circle
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)
- 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)
- Farrington Specialty Counseling

### 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 Disorders (ANAD)
- Project HEAL
- Stay Strong Virginia
- Wrobel & Smith, PLLP

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