



Eating Disorders Coalition Celebrates the House Passage of H.R. 987 to Protect and Stabilize the Affordable Care Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 17, 2019) – The Eating Disorders Coalition (EDC) celebrates the U.S. House of Representatives passage of the *Marketing and Outreach Restoration to Empower Health Education Act of 2019* [*Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act*] (H.R. 987), which provides critical reforms and funding to support the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This legislation immediately follows the passage of the *Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019* (H.R. 986), which the EDC successfully advocated for during our EDC Capitol Hill Advocacy Day.

H.R. 987 prohibits the selling of short-term, limited duration insurance policies that last up to 1 year and can be renewed for 3 years. These plans have limited to no coverage for mental health services and have a history of discriminating against individuals with pre-existing conditions. Additionally, the bill provides increased funding for the ACA Federal Navigator program, which provides grants to states to help with outreach, education and enrollment assistance for individuals and families.

EDC Congressional Champion Representative Ted Deutch (D-FL) worked with advocates from the EDC to include an amendment directing ACA navigators to raise awareness of the ACA's mental health and substance use disorder parity laws. Although there have been gains in mental health parity, individuals and families with eating disorders continue to face significant barriers to accessible, affordable, and equitable treatment.

Advocates from the EDC community provided stories of their own personal parity violations to the Congressman to read on the House floor. The video of Congressman Deutch's powerful remarks provided by our advocates from across the nation can be viewed [here](#). H.R. 987 now proceeds to the Senate for further consideration.

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 persons with eating disorders, and those 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.###