



Eating Disorders Coalition Welcomes 142 Advocates to Nation's Capital in Support of the Affordable Care Act and Medicare Coverage for Eating Disorders Nutrition Therapy

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 10, 2019) –The Eating Disorders Coalition (EDC) and 142 advocates representing 27 states and the District of Columbia participated in the EDC's annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Day, championing stabilization of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as well as critical new legislation ensuring individuals and families covered by Medicare have access to the medical nutrition therapy needed to initiate and sustain recovery from eating disorder illnesses.

Over the course of the day, advocates met with more than 130 US House of Representatives and US Senate offices, concluding the day with inspiring remarks by EDC's Congressional Champion, Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA).

"This year's EDC Advocacy was a success thanks to the dedicated advocates who traveled from all over the country to have their voices heard," says Molly McShane, Vice President of the Eating Disorders Coalition. "Educating our legislators on the importance of strengthening access to eating disorder treatments is empowering and impactful. Together we are making a difference."

Just two days after advocates shared their stories of the life-saving services afforded by the Affordable Care Act, the US House of Representatives passed legislation to enforce comprehensive health and mental health insurance coverage for Americans in the form of H.R. 986—the *Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019*. This important legislation now moves to the US Senate for consideration.

"As the central voice for the eating disorders community on Capitol Hill, the Eating Disorders Coalition has a sacred mission to represent millions of Americans standing in need of care and of hope," says Chase Bannister, Board President of the Eating Disorders Coalition. "For nearly 20 years the EDC has been the standard-bearer for federal policy advancing access-to-care for those with eating disorders. Our 2019 Advocacy Day reveals growing power within our community to meaningfully influence policy. We are humbled by our advocates, heartened by our congressional champions, and galvanized by legislation that moves us forward together."

To receive important information on policy progress and action alerts on eating disorders issues, the EDC invites persons to join the EDC listserv by following the link provided [here](#).

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 children with eating disorders and people 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.

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