

EDC ON THE HILL

2020

July Newsletter



- **EDC Virtual Advocacy Day 2020—Register Today!**
- **New Co-Sponsors of the Nutrition CARE Act ([H.R. 3711/S. 2907](#))**
- **Eating Disorders Coalition Briefing: “COVID-19 and Eating Disorders: How Untreated Eating Disorders Impact Americans, Medicare and the Economy”**
- **21st Century Cures 2.0 Comment Submission**
- **EDC Coalition Members Team Up with MNT Op-ed**
- **Thank You to Advocates for Grassroots Efforts on the SERVE Act ([H.R. 2767/S. 2673](#))**
- **EDC Letters of Support**
- **Eating Disorders Personal Story Collection**
- **EDC Action Alerts**

EDC Virtual Advocacy Day 2020—Register Today!

The Eating Disorders Coalition is preparing for our first virtual advocacy day, taking place on Wednesday, September 23. Join us in the fight to ensure that individuals and loved ones have coverage for outpatient medical nutrition therapy services for eating disorders. More information and the registration page can be found [here](#).



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

The Eating Disorders Coalition is proud to announce that new additional co-sponsors have signed onto our flagship legislation, the bipartisan Nutrition CARE Act, a bill which would establish Medical Nutrition Therapy as a covered outpatient benefit under Medicare. In the month of July, Reps. Butterfield (D-NC), Trone (D-MD), and Rodney Davis (R-IL) all signed on as co-sponsors of the Nutrition CARE Act.

Eating Disorders Coalition Briefing: “COVID-19 and Eating Disorders: How Untreated Eating Disorders Impact Americans, Medicare and the Economy”

The Eating Disorders Coalition sponsored a briefing on COVID-19 and untreated eating disorders in coordination with the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, House Democrats' Task Force on Aging & Families, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH), and co-hosts the American Psychological Association, International Federation of Eating Disorder Dietitians, and HealthyWomen. The event saw record attendance with a total of 177 attendees, including several congressional staff and federal agencies. A full recording of the briefing and related materials can be found [here](#).

21st Century Cures 2.0 Comment Submission

The Eating Disorders Coalition submitted comments to the offices of Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI) in response to their 21st Century Cures 2.0 concept paper. The EDC focused on two areas within the concept paper: (1) Caregiver Integration and (2) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Modernization. The full press release can be read [here](#), and the comment submission can be read [here](#).

EDC Coalition Members Team Up with MNT Op-ed

Eating Disorders Coalition members Eating Disorders Hope and the International Federation of Eating Disorders Dietitians (IFEDD) partnered up to showcase an op-ed written by IFEDD founder, Jessica Setnick. The article discusses the negative impact a lack of nutritional therapy for eating disorders can have towards recovery and why EDC’s Nutrition CARE Act is a vital piece of legislation. Read the full op-ed [here](#).

Thank You to Advocates for Grassroots Efforts on SERVE Act ([H.R. 2767/S.2673](#))

The Eating Disorders Coalition thanked our advocates for their tireless work over recent weeks in support of the Supporting Eating Disorders Recovery Through Vital Expansion (SERVE) Act. To learn more about the current status of the legislation and next steps, read our full statement [here](#).

EDC Letters of Support

Striking Section 510 of the Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill

The Eating Disorders Coalition supported a letter to Members of the House of Representatives urging them to support the amendment offered by Representative Bill Foster (D-IL) and Representative Mike Kelly (R-PA) to the Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations Act ([H.R. 7617](#)), striking Section 510 of the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, which currently prohibits the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from spending any federal dollars to promulgate or adopt a national patient identifier. Read the version sent to Representatives who supported the amendment in the FY20 budget process [here](#), and the version to those who did not [here](#).

Senators Smith (D-MN) and Murkowski (R-AK) Lead COVID-19 Behavioral Health Bills

The Eating Disorders Coalition joined a letter to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions leadership in support of Senators Tina Smith (D-MN) and Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) bills, the Emergency Support for Substance Use Disorders Act ([S. 4058](#)) and the COVID-19 Behavioral Health Support Act ([S. 4059](#)), and Senator Smith's Emergency Support for Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Services Act ([S. 4093](#)). Read the full letter [here](#).

Addressing Language and Communications Needs During COVID-19

The Eating Disorders Coalition signed onto a letter led by the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) to House and Senate leadership, urging them to dedicate resources and oversight to ensure language and communications needs are not a barrier to COVID-19 public health knowledge, testing, and treatment. Read the full letter [here](#).

Evaluating Disparities and Outcomes of Telehealth During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

The Eating Disorders Coalition led a letter to the House Committees on Energy & Commerce and Ways & Means in support of Representative Robin Kelly's (D-IL) legislation entitled, Evaluating Disparities and Outcomes of Telehealth During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Act or EDOT Act ([H.R. 7078](#)) that would require data collection on a number of telehealth metrics—including gender, age, race, sex, disability status, income, and more to advance our understanding of gaps in telehealth access across the country. Read the full letter [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

- Residential Eating Disorders Consortium

Executive Circle

- Clementine
- Eating Recovery Center

Support Circle

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

- The Emily Program
- 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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Eating Disorders Coalition | PO Box 96503-98807, Washington, DC 20090

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Sent by lkopetsky@eatingdisorderscoalition.org powered by



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