April 12, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Committee on Appropriations
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Committee on Appropriations
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Subcommittee Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Subcommittee Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cochran, Senator Durbin, Congressman Frelinghuysen, and Congressman Visclosky:

On March 17th and 18th, 2016, Senator Amy Klobuchar [D-MN], Senator Kelly Ayotte [R-NH], Congressman Ted Deutch [D-FL-21], Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen [R-FL-27], and Congresswoman Renee Ellmers [R-NC-2] submitted letters along with 18 of their colleagues requesting the inclusion of eating disorders within the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) for Fiscal Year 2017's Department of Defense Appropriations bill. The eating disorders community would like to express our strong support for these Representatives' letters and the inclusion of eating disorders as eligible for research funding under the PRMRP.

In the United States, 30 million Americans experience a clinically significant eating disorder at some time in their life, including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorder. They typically affect women 2.5 times more than men and have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness, at a rate of 20 percent.

A study published in the journal *Military Medicine* found that as many as 29.6 percent of female cadets and 33.6 percent of active duty females were at risk for an eating disorder across all branches of the military, with a very low rate actually opting for treatment.

Despite the high prevalence of Americans with eating disorders, the high mortality rates of those with eating disorders, and a documented higher incidence of eating disorders among service members, there is currently minimal federal funding for eating disorders research. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), the

average amount of eating disorders research dollars per affected individual is just $0.93, while other diseases such as Autism are over $44 in research funding per affected individual.

The below organizations and companies urge you to include eating disorders for research funding through the PRMRP for FY 2017. Including them has the potential to benefit military members and their families and to vastly improve eating disorder research in this country for all who are or will be afflicted with this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, and Action	Washington, DC / National
National Eating Disorders Association	New York City, NY / National
Monte Nido	Agoura Hills, CA
Gürze Books	Carlsbad, CA
Center for Discovery	Los Alamitos, CA
Monte Nido	Los Angeles, CA
The Renfrew Center	Los Angeles, CA
Monte Nido	Malibu, CA
Eating Recovery Center	Sacramento, CA
Monte Nido	San Diego, CA
Eating Recovery Center	Denver, CO
The Renfrew Center	Old Greenwich, CT
BingeBehavior.com	Washington, D.C.
The Renfrew Center	Coconut Creek, FL
Oliver-Pyatt Centers – Casa Azul	Miami, FL

Oliver-Pyatt Centers – Casa Rosada	Miami, FL
Oliver-Pyatt Centers – Casa Verde	Miami, FL
Clementine	Pinecrest, FL
Clementine	S. Miami, FL
Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness	West Palm Beach, FL
The Renfrew Center	Atlanta, GA
Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa	Des Moines, IA
Eating Recovery Center	Chicago, IL
The Renfrew Center	Chicago, IL
Timberline Knolls	Lemont, IL
National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders	Naperville, IL / National
Rachele Judd LCSW LLC	New Orleans, LA
Monte Nido	Boston, MA
The Renfrew Center	Boston, MA
Monte Nido	Medford, MA
MEDA	Newton, MA
The Renfrew Center	Baltimore, MD
The Renfrew Center	Bethesda, MD
BEDA	Severna Park, MD

The Emily Program	Duluth, MN
Hope Network, LLC	Minnetonka, MN
The Emily Program	St. Louis Park, MN
The Emily Program	St. Paul, MN
The Emily Program Foundation	St. Paul, MN
Wrobel & Smith, PLLP	St. Paul, MN
The Emily Program	Woodbury, MN
The Renfrew Center	Charlotte, NC
Veritas Collaborative	Durham, NC
Raleigh Charter High School's Project Heal	Raleigh, NC
The Renfrew Center	Mount Laurel, NJ
The Renfrew Center	Ridgewood, NJ
Zephyrus of Santa Fe Eating Disorders Recovery Center	Santa Fe, NM
Monte Nido	Irvington, NY
KMB for Answers	Livonia, NY
Monte Nido	Manhattan, NY
The Renfrew Center	New York, NY
Eating Recovery Center	Cincinnati, OH
The Emily Program	Cleveland Heights, OH
The Emily Program	Cleveland, OH

The Laureate Eating Disorders Program	Tulsa, OK
Monte Nido	Eugene, OR
Monte Nido	Portland, OR
Monte Nido	Philadelphia, PA
The Renfrew Center	Philadelphia, PA
Tri Sigma Beta Theta, University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA
The Renfrew Center	Radnor, PA
The Renfrew Center	Brentwood, TN
Acadia Healthcare	Franklin, TN
FINDINGbalance, Inc.	Franklin, TN
Renewed: *Eating Disorders Support*	Nashville, TN
Eating Recovery Center	Austin, TX
Eating Recovery Center	Dallas, TX
The Renfrew Center	Dallas, TX
Eating Recovery Center	Houston, TX
Eating Recovery Center	San Antonio, TX
Avalon Hills Health Care, Inc.	Logan, UT
Center for Change	Orem, UT
Veritas Collaborative	Richmond, VA

Academy for Eating Disorders	Reston, VA / International
Eating Recovery Center	Bellevue, WA
The Emily Program	Lacey, WA
The Emily Program	Seattle, WA
The Emily Program	Spokane, WA