



Eating Disorders Coalition Releases Official Letters to Senate and House Committee Leadership in Support of the Nutrition CARE Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 18, 2020) – Last month, the Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action led a letter with the support of 26 organizations to Congress, expressing strong support for the bipartisan Nutritional Counseling Aiding Recovery for Eating Disorders Act of 2019 (Nutrition CARE Act) (H.R. 3711/S. 2907), and urging them to bring this bill forward for consideration.

One letter was sent to the offices of the Senate Committee on Finance Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR), and another letter was submitted to the House Committee on Energy & Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR), as well as House Committee on Ways & Means Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) and Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX). A copy of the Senate letter can be found [here](#), and a copy of the House letter can be found [here](#).

The letter outlines to Congress why comprehensive treatment is critical in order to ensure that those affected by an eating disorder have the resources and care needed to make a full recovery. When not fully treated, an eating disorder can lead to serious medical complications, such as heart failure, kidney failure, or osteoporosis. The letter also clarifies that despite the stereotype perpetuated in the media that eating disorders only affect younger women, around 3%-4% of seniors in the United States are affected by an eating disorder, consistent with the general population. Also, it makes clear that 3% of males and 6% of females on SSDI under Medicare are affected by an eating disorder, again similar to the general population.

The Nutrition CARE Act, which currently has 27 combined supporters in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, would provide Medicare outpatient coverage for Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT), more commonly known as dietitian services, for Medicare Part B recipients who are affected by an eating disorder. MNT is already a covered benefit under Medicare Part B for those affected by renal disease and diabetes, and the inclusion of eating disorders would work toward establishing parity for conditions that are aided by dietetic services.

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.

###

Media Contact: Luke Kopetsky: lkopetsky@eatingdisorderscoalition.org