

EDC ON THE HILL

2020

March Newsletter



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[Additional Co-Sponsor of the Nutrition CARE Act \(H.R. 3711/S. 2907\)](#)

The Eating Disorders Coalition is happy to announce a new co-sponsor of the bipartisan Nutrition CARE Act, a bill which would establish Medical Nutrition Therapy as a covered outpatient benefit under Medicare. On March 5, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-CA) became the latest Member of Congress to co-sponsor this legislation.



[Eating Disorders Coalition Releases Official Letters to Senate and House Committee Leadership in Support of the Nutrition CARE Act](#)

The Eating Disorders Coalition led a letter with 26 supporting organizations to House and Senate Committees that hold jurisdiction over the Nutrition CARE Act. The letter urges committee leadership to advance the legislation for consideration in front of Congress. The press release and the letters can be read [here](#).

[Request for Information \(RFI\) on Maternal Health Outcomes](#)

The Eating Disorders Coalition submitted comments to the Senate Committee on Finance in response to the Committee's RFI on factors contributing to poor maternal health outcomes in the United States and ways Congress can assist in addressing gaps in coverage to improve outcomes across the nation. The letter can be found [here](#).

[New Date Announced for 2020 EDC Advocacy Day, September 23, 2020](#)

Due to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 outbreak, concern for the well-being of our wonderful advocate network and our shared responsibility to do our best to support the health of all our neighbors, 2020 EDC Advocacy Day has been postponed until September 23, 2020. Registration is open now through August 19, 2020 and you can register here: <https://bit.ly/39PC62r>.

[Action Alert Recap: Removing Barriers to Treatment and Promoting Health Care Coverage for People with Mental Illnesses in Third COVID-19 Legislative Package](#)

On March 19, the EDC sent out an Action Alert urging advocates across the country to reach out their Senators to include protections for people with eating disorders and mental illnesses in the third COVID-19 package. The response rate to this Action Alert was unprecedented and our largest to date with over 5,000 emails sent and phone calls were made by constituents to 98 of the 100 Senators. Thank you to each of you for using your voice and making a difference!

[EDC Letters of Support](#)

[Mental Health Services During COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

The Eating Disorders Coalition signed onto a letter with 81 other organizations to Vice President Pence, House leadership, and Senate leadership urging them to ensure the accessibility of mental health services, strengthen crisis services, implement reforms to ensure long-term availability of care, and more during the COVID-19 outbreak. Read the full letter [here](#).

[Small Business Loan Program \(SBLP\) Exclusion Rule for Non-Profits](#)

The Eating Disorders Coalition joined a letter to Senate leadership urging that they remove the

language excluding nonprofits that receive Medicaid reimbursements from the emergency Small Business Loan Program (SBLP), expand flexibilities to allow reimbursement for audio only telephone services for Medicare, and add funds for mental health and addiction care. Read the full letter [here](#).

Aid Package to States During COVID-19 Outbreak

The Eating Disorders Coalition signed onto a letter led by Families USA to House and Senate leadership, urging Congress to move legislation forward that includes at least \$150 billion in direct aid to states for fiscal relief as they deploy their resources to address critical health needs and absorb the economic crisis associated with COVID-19. Read the full letter [here](#).

Funding for the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program

The Eating Disorders Coalition lent its support to a letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and Labor, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee leadership, requesting \$50 million in funding for the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. Read the Senate letter [here](#), and the House letter [here](#).

Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Equity Act

The Eating Disorders Coalition supported a Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) letter to Senate and House members, expressing support for the Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Equity Act, which would eliminate the discrimination against mental illnesses that continues to exist in the Medicare program. Read the Senate letter [here](#), and the House letter [here](#).

Restrictions on Telebehavioral Health

The Eating Disorders Coalition supported a Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) letter to House and Senate leadership, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), and Governors across the country, requesting that states temporarily lift restrictions on telebehavioral health at all levels of care by telephone or video, regardless of insurance plan, and ensure payment parity until the conclusion of the COVID-19 national emergency. The letter to House and Senate leadership can be found [here](#), the letter to NAIC can be found [here](#), and the collection of letters to Governors can be found [here](#).

Eating Disorders Personal Story Collection

The Eating Disorders Coalition is collecting 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
- 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

Support Circle

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

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

Hope Circle

- Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)
- The Eating Disorders Center at Rogers Memorial Hospital
- 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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