

EDC ON THE HILL

2020

May Newsletter



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New Co-Sponsor of the SERVE Act ([H.R. 2767/S. 2673](#))

The Eating Disorders Coalition is pleased to announce a new co-sponsor of the bipartisan SERVE Act, which would significantly increase access to residential eating disorders treatment under TRICARE for servicemembers and their families. Congresswoman Elaine Luria (D-VA) became the latest Member of Congress to co-sponsor this piece of legislation. Prior to Congress, Rep. Luria served two decades in the Navy, retiring at the rank of Commander.



Introduction of the Eating Disorders Prevention in Schools Act of 2020 ([H.R. 6703](#))

The Eating Disorders Coalition applauds the introduction of the bipartisan Eating Disorders Prevention in Schools Act of 2020, led by Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC) and Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler (R-MO). This flagship legislation from our coalition member, the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA), seeks to integrate eating disorders prevention in Local School Wellness Policies to create a more comprehensive approach to teaching health and wellness in schools.

Letter to Senator Feinstein in Support of Senate Resolution 560 ([S.Res. 560](#))

The Eating Disorders Coalition submitted a letter to the office of Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), expressing support for Senate Resolution 560, which recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month. The EDC was particularly supportive given the resolution addressed the fact that sexual assault is often associated with the development of an eating disorder along with numerous other adverse mental health consequences.

Mental Health Awareness Month

May was Mental Health Awareness Month, which has been observed during the month of May in the United States since 1949. Throughout the month, the EDC shared useful mental health tools provided by Mental Health America from their [Tools 2 Thrive kit](#). We also released a post urging the House of Representatives to pass the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act ([H.R. 4194](#)), which would designate 9-8-8 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

National Women's Health Week

May 10-16 was National Women's Health Week, organized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health (OWH). As an official organizational supporter of the Office on Women's Health, the EDC shared an OWH [webpage](#) containing useful resources, including steps to build a foundation of good health, an online tool for "finding your health," and a National Women's Health Week fact sheet.

EDC Letters of Support

Health Care Protection Act ([H.R. 6810](#))

The Eating Disorders Coalition led a Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) letter to the leads and original co-sponsors of the Health Care Protection Act, expressing strong support for the bill. The legislation would create a federal subsidy program for individuals and families to maintain their employer-provided health insurance through COBRA. Read the full letter [here](#).

Temporary Loosening of Restrictions on Telehealth Services under TRICARE

The Eating Disorders Coalition led a letter on behalf of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) to House Armed Services Committee (HASC) and Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) leadership, requesting that they implement measures in the next COVID-19 relief bill that temporarily loosen restrictions on telehealth services under TRICARE. Read the full letter [here](#).

Supporting Nonprofit Provisions

The Eating Disorders Coalition signed onto a letter led by the National Council of Nonprofits to House and Senate leadership, requesting that the next COVID-19 relief package expand nonprofit access to credit, strengthen charitable giving incentives, treat self-funded nonprofits fairly, and increase emergency funding. Read the full letter [here](#).

Health Care at Home Act (H.R. 6644/S. 3741)

The Eating Disorders Coalition joined a Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) letter to Representatives Schrier (D-WA) and Roe (R-TN), in support of the Health Care at Home Act, which would require group health plans and health insurers to cover telehealth services, including mental health and substance use disorder services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Read the full letter [here](#). The EDC also officially endorsed the Senate version of this bill (S. 3741), led by Senator Tina Smith, as can be seen in a [press release](#) from her office.

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
- 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

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)

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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