



March 2, 2016

State Senator Matt McCoy
Iowa Senate District 21
Iowa Statehouse
Des Moines, IA 50319

Executive Circle

Avalon Hills
Eating Recovery Center
The Emily Program
The Emily Program Foundation
Kantor & Kantor, LLP
Oliver-Pyatt Centers
Residential Eating Disorders Consortium
Veritas Collaborative

Policy Circle

Academy for Eating Disorders
The Renfrew Center

Leadership Circle

Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness
Gail R. Schoenbach FREED Foundation
Monte Nido Treatment Center
Reasons Eating Disorder Center
Remuda Ranch

Advocacy Circle

Binge Eating Disorder Association
International Association of Eating Disorder
Professionals Foundation (iaedp)
Laureate Eating Disorders Program
Timberline Knolls

Support Circle

Cambridge Eating Disorder Center
Castlewood Treatment Center
Center for Discovery
Eating Disorder Center of Denver
Eating Disorder Hope
Focus Treatment Centers
Inner Door Center
Mirasol Eating Disorder Recovery Centers
Multi-Services Eating Disorders Association
Park Nicollet Melrose Center
Rosewood Centers for Eating Disorders
Walden Behavioral Care
Wrobel & Smith, PLLP

Hope Circle

American Anorexia and Bulimia Association
of Philadelphia
BingeBehavior.com
Casa Palmera
Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)
The Eating Disorders Center at Rogers
Memorial Hospital
EDN of Maryland
FEAST
FINDINGbalance
Gurze Books
The International Federation of Eating
Disorders Dietitians
McCallum Place Eating Disorder Centers
The National Association of Anorexia
Nervosa and Associated Eating Disorders
PENED/Footsteps for Recovery
Theravive

Dear Senator McCoy,

The Eating Disorders Coalition would like to express our strong support for SF 2204, an act relating to insurance coverage for the assessment and treatment of eating disorders and including applicability date provisions, which aims to provide uniformity in coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of eating disorders.

The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (mental health parity) passed into law in 2008 by the U.S. Congress with bipartisan support, requiring parity for eating disorders treatment coverage benefits; however, enforcement of this law is still lacking. SF 2204 would act to further enforce current mental health parity law as well as provide a deeper level of clarification and uniformity in diagnosis and treatment of eating disorders. Similarly, the Anna Westin Act of 2015 (HR 2515 / S 1865) was introduced by bipartisan, bicameral Members of the U.S. Congress to provide similar clarity of current mental health parity treatment coverage, including treatment for eating disorders. This bill is currently supported by half of Iowa's Congressional Delegation including Congressman David Young [IA-3] and Congressman Dave Loebsack [IA-2].

Eating disorders affect nearly 30 million Americans at some time in their lives and currently affect over 100,000 people in Iowa alone. They are highly complex, serious mental health conditions which impact every organ system in the body, and they have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness. Once an eating disorder takes hold, it is very difficult to reverse. The physical, emotional, and financial toll it takes on families can be devastating. With uniform coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of these serious illnesses, SF 2204 can potentially save thousands of lives and may reduce the prevalence of these illnesses within Iowa.

We are so thankful for your continued leadership on behalf of all the providers, individuals and families in Iowa who have been impacted by an eating disorder. It is time for us to shed light on the devastation that eating disorders can cause and to work together towards insurance coverage of the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases. Your dedication and commitment to this cause is so important.

The Eating Disorders Coalition respectfully urges the Iowa State Legislature to support this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Katrina Velasquez, Esq.
Policy Director
Eating Disorders Coalition