

In case you haven't heard...

The Eating Disorders Coalition (EDC) is applauding passage of eating disorders legislation March 16 by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. It marks the first time legislation specifically designed to help people with eating disorders passed with unanimous bipartisan support, the EDC stated in a press release. The Mental Health Reform Act of 2016 included key provisions from the bipartisan, bicameral Anna Westin Act of 2015 (S. 1865), including early identification of eating disorders trainings for health professionals, such as doctors, enhanced information, resources and public service announcements to help early identification of eating disorders by the public. The legislation clarifies existing mental health parity law to improve health insurance coverage of life-saving residential treatment for eating disorders, according to the EDC. "It is so important that we bring greater public awareness to the dangers of eating disorders, as well as help health professionals and the public better recognize behaviors that may lead to or signal the presence of an eating disorder," said Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) in a statement. The Anna Westin Act was named in honor of Chaska, Minn. native Anna Westin, who struggled with anorexia for 5 years and lost her life to the illness at age 21.