



House Passes Eating Disorders Care Provisions, a Victory for Military Families

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 24, 2021) — Yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which included two eating disorders initiatives to support military families’ access to care. The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is elated the House included these monumental provisions to increase provider training and TRICARE military insurance coverage for eating disorders.

One provision was introduced by Representative Grace Meng (D-NY-06) via Amendment 196, which provides training in eating disorders identification, intervention, and referral for all military health professionals providing direct care. This amendment was approved last night on the House floor and amended into the NDAA package. In addition, earlier this month, the House Armed Services Committee passed key provisions of the Supporting Eating Disorders Recovery through Vital Expansion (SERVE) Act ([H.R.1309](#)) into the legislative package. These SERVE Act provisions, included in Amendment 840, led by Representatives Seth Moulton (D-MA-06) and Vicky Hartzler (R-MO-04), would expand the the age limit for TRICARE health insurance dependents’ eating disorders treatment from 20 years old to Medicare-eligibility age (64 years old).

“Eating disorders are serious mental illnesses that unfortunately impact servicemembers at higher rates than the general public due to risk factors unique to their military experience,” **said U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY)**. “My amendment to the FY22 NDAA requires that all medical professionals who provide direct care services to patients under the military health system receive a mandatory training on how to screen, intervene, and refer patients to treatment for eating disorders. This training is needed to ensure that affected servicemembers get the treatment they need, and I’m thankful that it was passed by the House as part of the NDAA. We must continue to look out for our servicemembers.”

“The EDC is ecstatic that the U.S. House of Representatives came together yesterday across party lines to pass the NDAA”, said **Chase Bannister, MDIV, MSW, LCSW, CEDS, Board President of the EDC**. “Our servicemembers deserve the comfort of knowing that their families have the coverage and provider expertise necessary to address disordered eating. We are proud to see the House endorse lifesaving eating disorder screening, intervention, referral, and treatment options for all military family members. The EDC expresses our deepest thanks to the champions of these two amendments and to the House of Representatives for voting yes.”

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: Emily Rosenberg: erosenberg@eatingdisorderscoalition.org