May 25, 2017

The Honorable Nily Rozic  The Honorable Kathleen Marchione
New York State Assembly New York State Senate
LOB 547 LOB 912
Albany, NY 12248   Albany, NY 12247

Dear Assemblymembers Rozic and Marchione:

The Eating Disorders Coalition, a national coalition of treatment providers, advocacy organizations, researchers, and families and individuals affected by eating disorders, would like to express our strong support for your introduced legislation, A06396A and S06045-A. This legislation expands the current protections of mental health parity (parity) from Timothy’s Law in order to ensure comparable coverage for adults and children with eating disorders, as well as properly define eating disorders using current medical standards to ensure coverage for all eating disorders including binge eating disorder. In the past, only anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa were covered under Timothy’s law, preventing people with other highly prevalent eating disorders, including binge eating disorder and OSFED, from receiving health insurance coverage.

Few need the parity provisions fully implemented more than people with eating disorders. Eating disorders affect 30 million Americans at some time in their life, and have the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness. Given the complexity of this severe mental illness, eating disorder patients must receive the full continuum of care recommended by their treatment team without interruption. Without timely and appropriate care, their illness may worsen to reach a stage that can be very costly and difficult to reverse.

We commend you for taking initiative on expanding these protections to all New Yorkers living with an eating disorder. Thank you for your leadership on behalf of all individuals and families who have been impacted by an eating disorder.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bryn Austin
Board President
Eating Disorders Coalition