

EDC ON THE HILL

2019

October Newsletter



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Federal Government Releases Guidance on Mental Health Parity Including Important Eating Disorders Treatment and Coverage Clarifications

The U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of the Treasury released [federal guidance](#) last month to guide insurance companies and plan issuers to comply with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. The EDC has been deeply involved in these discussions with the federal government and succeeded in the Departments releasing important information related to coverage for eating disorders treatment. Read our full press release regarding the guidance [here](#).

SERVE Act (S. 2673) Introduced by Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Martha McSally (R-AZ)

Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Martha McSally (R-AZ) introduced the Senate companion legislation of the Supporting Eating Disorders Recovery Through Vital Expansion (SERVE) Act (H.R. 2767 / [S. 2763](#)) with support from Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV). If passed, the bill would eliminate age restrictions of military children and spouses to receive treatment, lift restrictions to receive higher levels of care, and require mental health early identification training to Commanders and Supervisory personnel. The full press release can be read [here](#). The press releases for Senators Shaheen and McSally can be read [here](#) and [here](#).

NEDA Hosts a Congressional Briefing in Coordination with the Congressional House Hunger Caucus

The National Eating Disorders Association and the Congressional House Hunger Caucus held a Congressional briefing entitled, *Child Nutrition Reauthorization and Local School Wellness Policies: Addressing Eating Disorders Prevention Policies Within Schools*. The briefing educated Congressional staff on Section 4 of the Long-term Investments in Education for Wellness (LIVE Well) Act (H.R. 2625). A recording of the briefing can be viewed [here](#).

NEDA and STRIPED Provide Technical Assistance for Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Tammy Baldwin's (D-WI) Letter to Weight Watchers CEO

The two organizations provided technical assistance to the Senator's in a letter to Weight Watchers CEO, Mindy Grossman. The letter urges her to remove the Kurbo app, a dangerous dieting app targeting children and adolescents. You can read the letter and Senator Baldwin's press release [here](#).

EDC Joins Mental Health for US

The Eating Disorders Coalition joined the Mental Health for US. The coalition aims to unite with other organizations to show current and future government leaders how important improving mental health and addiction support is to Americans. Learn more about the coalition and sign the statement of support [here](#).

EDC Letters of Support

RISE from Trauma Act (S.1770 / H.R. 3180)

The EDC joined fellow members of the Mental Health Liaison Group in supporting the bipartisan RISE from Trauma Act (S.1770/H.R. 3180). The Act would direct important resources for communities to implement evidence-based best practices to prevent and mitigate the impact of

trauma; incentivize communication and cooperation between government agencies, health care and social service organizations; enhance training to better identify at-risk behaviors among youth; and increase authorized funding for behavioral health graduate school loan repayment programs and recruitment to trauma-related health professions. Read the letter [here](#).

Supporting Tomorrow's Pediatric Health Care Workforce Act (S. 2443)

The EDC joined 60+ organizations in supporting the bipartisan Supporting Tomorrow's Pediatric Health Care Workforce Act (S. 2443) would reauthorize the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program. The program provides financial incentives for trainees to choose careers in pediatric subspecialties to help ameliorate shortages in this sector. The full letter can be read [here](#).

Eating Disorders Personal Story Collection

The Eating Disorders Coalition is collecting 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 at 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
- Timberline Knolls
- Walden Behavioral Care

Support Circle

- 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
- Mothers Against Eating Disorders (MAED)
- 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

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)
- Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)
- The Eating Disorders Center at Rogers Memorial Hospital
- 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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