

EDC ON THE HILL

2020

October Newsletter



- **EDC Releases 2020 Congressional Scorecard**
- **Johanna Kandel, EDC Board Member, Appointed to the Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC)**
- **EDC Publishes Statement on Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report on Eating Disorders in the Military**
- **New Co-Sponsors of the Nutrition CARE Act ([H.R. 3711/S. 2907](#))**
- **New Co-Sponsors of the Health Care at Home Act ([H.R. 6644](#))**
- **New Co-Sponsor of the SERVE Act ([H.R. 2767/S.2673](#))**
- **Letters to Governors for Tele-Mental Health Coverage Extensions**
- **The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act Signed into Law**
- **EDC Letters of Support**
- **Eating Disorders Personal Story Collection**
- **EDC Action Alerts**

EDC Releases 2020 Congressional Scorecard

The Eating Disorders Coalition recently released its 2020 Congressional Scorecard to help Americans understand what eating disorders-related policies their Representative and Senators supported during the 116th Congress, including items led by the EDC and other initiatives of importance to the eating disorders community at large. Access the full scorecard [here](#).

Johanna Kandel, EDC Board Member, Appointed to the Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC)

Johanna Kandel, Founder and CEO of The Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness and Board Member of the Eating Disorders Coalition, has joined the Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC) to represent people with lived eating disorder experience. Learn more about ISMICC and read the full joint press release [here](#).

EDC Publishes Statement on Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report on Eating Disorders in the Military

The Eating Disorders Coalition published a statement in response to a report put out by the GAO entitled, “Department of Defense: Eating Disorders in the Military.” The EDC applauds this effort to examine screening, prevention, and treatment access for eating disorders for military members and their families. However, the EDC finds some of the report’s findings concerning. Read the full statement [here](#) and the report [here](#).

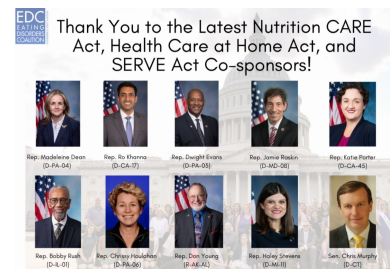
New Co-Sponsors of the Nutrition CARE Act ([H.R. 3711/S. 2907](#))

The impact of EDC’s virtual advocacy continues to reverberate in D.C. this month and we are pleased to announce additional co-sponsors for the Nutrition CARE Act, a bill which would establish Medical Nutrition Therapy for eating disorders as a covered outpatient benefit under Medicare. In the past month, Reps. Dean (D-PA-04), Houlihan (D-PA-06), Rush (D-IL-01), and Khanna (D-CA-17) all co-sponsored the legislation.

New Co-Sponsors of the Health Care at Home Act ([H.R. 6644](#))

Additionally, we saw new Members of Congress sign onto the Health Care at Home Act, which would mandate telehealth coverage, including tele-mental health coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic for commercial and Affordable Care Act (ACA) health plans. Reps. Dean (D-PA-04), Evans (D-PA-03), Young (R-AK-AL), Stevens (D-MI-11), Rush (D-IL-01), Raskin (D-MD-08), and Porter (D-CA-45) have all signed onto the bill.

New Co-Sponsor of the SERVE Act ([H.R. 2767/S.2673](#))



The Eating Disorders Coalition is happy to report a new co-sponsor of the SERVE Act, which would significantly increase access to residential eating disorders treatment under TRICARE for servicemembers and their families. Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) recently became the latest Member of Congress to co-sponsor the SERVE Act.

Letters to Governors for Tele-Mental Health Coverage Extensions

The Eating Disorders Coalition led a Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) letter to Governors in Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, which do not have a state telehealth mandate. The letters urge Governors to enact executive orders on coverage for tele-mental health services through the end of 2021, including all levels of outpatient care. You can read the content of the letter [here](#).

The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act Signed into Law

The bipartisan National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, which designates 9-8-8 as a universal phone number Americans can call when dealing with suicidal ideations or other mental health crises, was recently signed into law. The Eating Disorders Coalition applauds this step in making mental health services more accessible. The EDC expressed its support for this effort earlier this year, when it signed onto a letter to Ajit Pai, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, which can be found [here](#).

EDC Letters of Support

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Telehealth Expansion

The Eating Disorders signed onto a Mental Health Liaison Group letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma, urging further telehealth expansion by allowing telehealth through audio-only devices and the elimination of current geographic and site restrictions. Read the full letter [here](#).

Eating Disorders Personal Story Collection

The Eating Disorders Coalition continues to collect 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 through 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

Support Circle

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)
- 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
- 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

- Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)
- Rogers Behavioral Health
- Eating Disorder Therapy LA
- FEAST
- International Federation of Eating Disorders

- International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals Foundation (iaedp)
- Reasons Eating Disorder Center

Advocacy Circle

- Center for Change
- Laureate Eating Disorders Program
- Walden Behavioral Care

Dietitians (IFEDD)

- Moonshadow's Spirit
- The National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD)
- Project HEAL
- Stay Strong Virginia
- Wrobel & Smith, PLLP

Stay in touch!

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter