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## **For Immediate Release**

# **EDC Applauds the HHS Office on Women’s Health for Taking the First Step Towards Implementing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures; However, Encourages Stronger Application**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 4, 2017) — Half a year has gone by since Congress passed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255) into law, representing the first time in history that Congress specifically acted to improve the lives of people with eating disorders. Within 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures, Section 13005. “Information and Awareness on Eating Disorders” instructs the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Office on Women’s Health (OWH), to update the National Women’s Health Information Center materials, fact sheets, and resources on eating disorders in order to provide current research and information related to males and females. The Section also requests the incorporation of eating disorders information with appropriate obesity prevention programs through the Department of Education, and increased public awareness on eating disorders.

We are pleased to see that the OWH took the first step in implementing this provision from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures by updating the OWH fact sheets on eating disorders in June 2017. You can find the fact sheets here: [Anorexia Nervosa](#), [Binge Eating Disorder](#), and [Bulimia Nervosa](#). Furthermore, we welcomed the invitation from the OWH to provide additional feedback on their website and fact sheets. The EDC worked with representatives of our member organizations, including the Binge Eating Disorder Association, Harvard University’s STRIPED, National Eating Disorders Association, The Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness, and Residential Eating Disorders Consortium, among others, to provide additional feedback to the OWH. That additional input was sent today and highlighted further guidance to decrease stigma and stereotypes, increase early identification, and provide the most up-to-date research on eating disorders. You can find the recommendations here: <http://bit.ly/2usiZGE>

While this is a promising first step towards implementing the provisions within 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures, the Eating Disorders Coalition will continue to work with both HHS, DOL, Treasury, and our champions in Congress to ensure all eating disorders provisions and subsections are implemented to the fullest extent.

*The Eating Disorders Coalition is a Washington, D.C.-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of treatment providers, advocacy organizations and entities, parents of children with eating disorders, and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. Additional resources can also be found at [www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org](http://www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org).*

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