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For Immediate Release

Passage of the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act Includes Further Implementation of Anna Westin Act Provision to Train Health Professionals on Eating Disorders

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 23, 2018) — Today, Congress passed the Fiscal Year (FY) Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (also known as the “Omnibus”) (Senate Amendment to H.R. 1625). The [Explanatory Report Language](#) includes language to integrate the “Education and Training on Eating Disorders” for health care professionals authorized by the Anna Westin Act through 21st Century Cures (P.L. 114-255) into the U.S. Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Resource’s Primary Care Training & Enhancement Program.

Congress passed the 21st Century Cures Act in December 2016, which included key provisions from the bipartisan, bicameral Anna Westin Act of 2015 (S. 1865 / H.R. 2515), including Section 13006 for the early identification and intervention of eating disorders trainings for health professionals. Unfortunately, since the passage, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services has taken little to no action to implement these provisions. The FY 2018 Omnibus boosts funding for the Primary Care Training and Enhancement Program by \$10 million, with a total budget of \$49 million for 2018.

To further the implementation of Section 13006 of the 21st Century Cures Act, the Eating Disorders Coalition in collaboration with Senator Amy Klobuchar [D-MN] and Senator Tammy Baldwin [D-WI] secured the following Omnibus report language: “The agreement also urges the integration of evidence-based trainings for health professionals to screen, assess, intervene, and refer patients to specialized treatment for the severe mental illness of eating disorders as authorized under section 13006 of the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255).” This language strongly advises HRSA to include eating disorders training within their 2018 training grants for primary care professionals, permitting the spread of eating disorders education for primary care professionals within \$49 million in training grants.

Eating disorders affect over 30 million Americans during their lifetime and have the highest mortality rate out of any psychiatric illness. Given the high prevalence and severity of this disorder, specialized training

in early identification and treatment of eating disorders is needed. The Eating Disorders Coalition applauds Congress for prioritizing eating disorder prevention, intervention, and treatment within the FY18 omnibus appropriations bill.

“We are thrilled that Congress is taking an important step towards devoting the resources needed to implement the Anna Westin Act and ensure that primary care professionals across the country are trained to identify eating disorders early and refer patients in need to life-saving care,” said **Dr. Bryn Austin, President of the Board of Directors of the Eating Disorders Coalition**. “HRSA has both the authorization of the 21st Century Cures Act and now the funds to make that authorization of primary care professional training a reality. For our community, this marks a step forward in catalyzing greater federal response to the eating disorders crisis, and we are grateful for the leadership of Senators Klobuchar and Baldwin in bringing us to this milestone.”

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

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