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For Immediate Release

## **Eating Disorders Coalition Applauds the Passage and Inclusion of Eating Disorders Trainings for Primary Care Professionals within the \$49M HRSA grant program under the FY 2019 Federal Funding Package**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 28, 2018) — Today the President signed into law the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.R. 6157) which was passed by Congress this past Wednesday. H.R. 6157 report for LHHS includes language to integrate the “Education and Training on Eating Disorders” for health care professionals authorized by the Anna Westin Act through 21<sup>st</sup> 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. This marks the second fiscal year in a row that Congress included the integration of eating disorders training within this funding.

Congress passed the 21<sup>st</sup> 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. To further the implementation of Section 13006 of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, **Senator Tammy Baldwin [D-WI]**, **Senator Shelley Moore Capito [R-WV]**, and **Senator Amy Klobuchar [D-MN]** as well as Representatives **Chellie Pingree [D-ME-1]**, **Mark Pocan [D-WI-2]**, **Ted Deutch [D-FL-22]**, and **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen [R-FL-27]** secured the language in the House and Senate Committee reports, included in this package.

“We are taking an important step forward in helping the 192,000 Wisconsinites and millions of Americans struggling with an eating disorder access the care that they need,” **said Senator Baldwin, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.** “This funding will help ensure that health professionals have the resources to recognize the presence of an eating disorder and improve patient care. We still have more work to do and I will keep working with my bipartisan partners Senators Capito and Klobuchar to secure sustained investments in prevention, treatment and diagnosis to better support those with an eating disorder illness.”

This language strongly advises HRSA to include eating disorders training within their 2019 training grants for primary care professionals, permitting the spread of eating disorders education for primary care professionals within \$49 million dollars in training grants. The language is as follow:

“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).”

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"With Congress's support, we are now one step closer to offering the training our nation's primary care providers urgently need in how to identify and treat eating disorders," said **Dr. Bryn Austin, President of the Board of Directors of the Eating Disorders Coalition**. "HRSA has long been the leader in training providers on emerging and complex public health concerns, and now the agency has both with the authorization through the 21st Century Cures Act and the essential funding it needs to advance this life-saving training for our nation's front-line providers. We are deeply appreciative of Senators Capito, Baldwin, and Klobuchar for their leadership in championing this great step forward for the federal response to the eating disorders crisis."

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 FY19 LHHS Funding package.

**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](http://www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org).

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