



Champions Circle

National Eating Disorders Association
Residential Eating Disorders Consortium

Executive Circle

Clementine
Eating Recovery Center
The Emily Program
The Emily Program Foundation
Kantor & Kantor, LLP
Monte Nido
Oliver-Pyatt Centers
Veritas Collaborative

Policy Circle

Academy for Eating Disorders
The Renfrew Center

Leadership Circle

Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness
Gail R. Schoenbach FREED Foundation
Reasons Eating Disorder Center
Remuda Ranch

Advocacy Circle

Binge Eating Disorder Association
Center for Change
International Association of Eating Disorders
Professionals Foundation (iaedp)
Laureate Eating Disorders Program
Timberline Knolls

Support Circle

Cambridge Eating Disorder Center
Castlewood Treatment Center
Center for Discovery
Eating Disorder Center of Denver
Eating Disorder Hope
International Eating Disorder Action (IEDAction)
Mirasol Eating Disorder Recovery Centers
Mothers Against Eating Disorders (MAED)
Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association
Park Nicollet Melrose Center
Rosewood Centers for Eating Disorders
Walden Behavioral Care

Hope Circle

Aloria Health
BingeBehavior.com
Casa Palmera
Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)
The Eating Disorder Foundation
Eating Disorder Therapy LA
The Eating Disorders Center at Rogers
Memorial Hospital
FEAST
FINDINGbalance
Gurze Books
International Federation of Eating Disorders
Dietitians (IFEDD)
Manna Scholarship Fund
McCallum Place Eating Disorder Centers
Moonshadow's Spirit
The National Association of Anorexia
Nervosa and Associated Eating Disorders
Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of
Eating Disorders (STRIPED)
Theravive
Wrobel & Smith, PLLP
WVU Disordered Eating Center of Charleston

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congress to the Administration- We Can't Wait Any Longer

54 Bipartisan Members Urge the Administration to Fully Implement Eating Disorder Laws

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 23, 2017) — Last week, a bipartisan group of Senators and Congressmen sent a [House of Representatives letter](#) and [Senate letter](#) to Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price urging full implementation of eating disorder laws originating from the Anna Westin Act passed within the 21st Century Cures Act last December. Led by **Representatives Ted Deutch (D-FL), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Tim Murphy (R-PA), and Leonard Lance (R-NJ)**, and **Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Shelley Moore-Capito (R-WV), and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)**, a combined 54 bipartisan Members urged the Secretary to prioritize these provisions and ensure that people suffering from the deadliest mental illness have access to quality, affordable, and adequate treatment, and that health professionals have the training to identify eating disorders early.

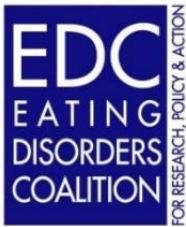
“Millions of Americans are affected by eating disorders but only some receive the treatment they need. Those suffering from eating disorders should have access to the same mental health services as those facing other types of illnesses – and that’s why we need to implement the Anna Westin Act.” **said Senator Capito.**

“I am proud of our bipartisan work to enact the essential reforms of the *Anna Westin Act* to improve access to affordable treatment for those struggling with eating disorders and to help health professionals better recognize and understand eating disorders,” **said Senator Baldwin.** “It is critical that the Trump Administration immediately begin implementation of this law to ensure that these historic reforms can deliver on the promise to improve prevention, treatment, and diagnosis to better support the 192,000 Wisconsinites who are struggling with an eating disorder.”

The 21st Century Cures Act passed Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support, leading to praise from almost all health communities including those with eating disorders. This Act represented the first time in history that Congress passed provisions into law specifically designed to help the 30 million Americans affected by eating disorders.

“For too long, millions of Americans suffering from an eating disorder were left in the shadows. But with early identification, intervention and treatment, we can turn suffering into victory,” said **Congressman Murphy.** “With the landmark Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act signed into law, for the first time ever, the federal government has prioritized helping those with an eating disorder get access to real medical care.”

Today however, implementation of these provisions is in the limbo of the regulatory process.



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“I’m proud of the decisive action Congress took last year to help the millions of Americans struggling with eating disorders,” said **Congressman Deutch**. “Now we need to make sure that the rubber hits the road, that Congress’ intended goals are met by the agency in charge of implementing the law.”

Congressman Lance added, “These provisions Congress passed into law need to be implemented to combat this illness. This action was the first time Congress took steps to combat eating disorders and we need the Administration to join in the fight.”

The Anna Westin Act was named in honor of Anna Westin, who struggled with anorexia for five years and lost her life due to the illness at the young age of 21. To learn more about Anna’s story, view a short video created by EveryDayMatters [here](#).

“When the historic provisions from the Anna Westin Act were signed into law, I was standing next to Kitty, Anna’s Mom – it was one of my proudest moments as a Senator,” said **Klobuchar**. “For the millions of Americans struggling with eating disorders who need access to quality and affordable care and treatment, we need this bipartisan bill to be implemented quickly and effectively.”

“Sadly 23 people are dying every day due to a lack of treatment and early identification of this medically complex condition,” said **Eating Disorders Coalition Board Member and mother of Anna, Kitty Westin**. “When it comes to your child’s life, every day counts.”

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. For more information contact Katrina Velasquez at the Eating Disorders Coalition at kvelasquez@eatingdisorderscoalition.org. Additional resources can also be found at www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org.

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