

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Members of Congress and Senate Request Eating Disorders Inclusion for Defense Research Funding *First-of-Its Kind Letter to U.S. House of Representatives and Senate Committee on Appropriations Defense Subcommittee*

Executive Circle

Avalon Hills
Eating Recovery Center
The Emily Program
The Emily Program Foundation
Kantor & Kantor, LLP
Oliver-Pyatt Centers
Residential Eating Disorders Consortium
Veritas Collaborative

Policy Circle

Academy for Eating Disorders
The Renfrew Center

Leadership Circle

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

Advocacy Circle

Binge Eating Disorder Association
International Association of Eating Disorder
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
Focus Treatment Centers
Inner Door Center
Mirasol Eating Disorder Recovery Centers
Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association
Park Nicollet Melrose Center
Rosewood Centers for Eating Disorders
Walden Behavioral Care
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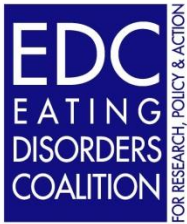
Hope Circle

American Anorexia and Bulimia Association
of Philadelphia
BingeBehavior.com
Casa Palmera
Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)
The Eating Disorders Center at Rogers
Memorial Hospital
EDN of Maryland
FEAST
FINDINGbalance
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The International Federation of Eating
Disorders Dietitians
McCallum Place Eating Disorder Centers
The National Association of Anorexia
Nervosa and Associated Eating Disorders
PENED/Footsteps for Recovery
Theravive

WASHINGTON, DC. (March 23, 2016) — Last week, Senator Kelly Ayotte [R-NH], Senator Amy Klobuchar [D-MN], Congressman Ted Deutch [D-FL], Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen [R-FL-27] and Congresswoman Renee Ellmers [R-NC-2] along with 18 of their colleagues, submitted a first-of-its kind letter requesting eating disorders inclusion for specific Department of Defense research programs. In the United States, 30 million Americans experience a clinically significant eating disorder at some point in their lifetime. There has been growing concern about eating disorders within the military, as studies show there is a higher prevalence rate among servicemembers than within the civilian population. A study published in the journal *Military Medicine* found that across all branches of the military, as many as 29.6 percent of female cadets and 33.6 percent of active duty females are at-risk for an eating disorder, and they have a very low rate of opting for treatment.

Despite the high prevalence of Americans with eating disorders, the high mortality rates of those with eating disorders, and a documented higher incidence of eating disorders among servicemembers, there is currently minimal federal funding for eating disorders research. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), the average amount of eating disorders research dollars per affected individual is just \$0.93, while other diseases such as Autism are over \$44 in research funding per affected individual.

Last week Senator Kelly Ayotte and Senator Amy Klobuchar as well as Congressman Ted Deutch, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Congresswoman Renee Ellmers led and submitted letters, co-signed by 18 other Representatives, to their respective Committee on Appropriations' Defense Subcommittee. The Senate and House letters requested that eating disorders become eligible for research funding under the U.S. Army's Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP). The PRMRP has supported research across the full range of science and medicine, with an underlying goal of enhancing the health and well-being of military service members, veterans, retirees, and their family members. You can view Deutch, Ros-Lehtinen, and Ellmers's letter to the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations



Committee [here](#), and Ayotte and Klobuchar’s letter to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee [here](#).

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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