



Residential Eating  
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## **Bipartisan Resolution for National Eating Disorders Awareness Week Introduced in U.S. House of Representatives**

On June 29, 2017, Congressman Tim Murphy [R-PA-18] and Congressman G.K. Butterfield [D-NC-1] of the House Energy & Commerce Committee led the introduction of a bipartisan House of Representatives Resolution to create a Congressionally recognized National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. With forty-two bipartisan U.S. House of Representatives signing-on as original co-sponsors, [House Resolution Number 428](#) (H.Res.428) demonstrates a strong Congressional support for raising awareness and understanding of eating disorders.

The Resolution syncs with the eating disorder community's over two-decade tradition of celebrating the National Eating Disorders Awareness week, designating the last week of February as the recognized week. National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is the largest national campaign that brings public attention to the critical needs of people with eating disorders and their families.

"The goal of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is to shine the spotlight on eating disorders and put life-saving resources into the hands of those in need," **stated Claire Mysko, Executive Director of the National Eating Disorders Association.** "Education and early intervention are critical in the fight against these deadly illnesses and we hope that this recognition from Congress will help us reach Americans with the information, support, and resources they deserve. We thank Congressman Murphy and Congressman Butterfield for their support and leadership, and we are honored to work with the Eating Disorders Coalition and Residential Eating Disorders Consortium on this important initiative. Together, we will ensure that no one has to struggle alone."

"Last December, we worked together and passed the 21st Century Cures Act with overwhelming bipartisan support, which included provisions from the Anna Westin Act. This represented the first-time Congress passed legislation specifically designed to help the millions of Americans suffering from an eating disorder," **Congressman Murphy and Congressman Butterfield stated in a [June 30<sup>th</sup> press release.](#)** "While these measures represent an important first step, more research is needed to train health care professionals, facilitate early intervention treatment, and raise awareness for prevention efforts for those struggling with an eating disorder. If we continue working together, we can build on the progress we made in the 114th Congress."

Over 30 million Americans are affected by an eating disorder during their lifetime. Eating disorders are serious and complex mental health conditions that affect people of all genders, ages, body sizes, races, sexual orientations and socioeconomic statuses and have the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness. The Resolution, crafted by Rep. Murphy and Butterfield in conjunction with the eating disorders community including the [National Eating Disorders Association](#), [Eating Disorders Coalition](#), and the [Residential Eating Disorders Consortium](#), carefully identifies the complexity and needs for the disorder. This includes addressing the need for more research, training for health professionals, quality treatment coverage, and awareness around often stigmatized communities including the military, high body weight individuals, and minority racial/ethnic groups amongst others.



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“The passage of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act was a great step forward for the eating disorders community,” **said Dr. S. Bryn Austin, President of the Eating Disorders Coalition and Professor of Pediatrics at Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School.** “But we have a lot of work ahead in our nation’s health care system to raise awareness and expertise in recognizing and treating eating disorders and to ensure access to the best possible care for all Americans with eating disorders, no matter who they are or where they live.”

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