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

Policy Circle
Academy for Eating Disorders
The Renfrew Center
Veritas Collaborative

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
The Eating Disorders Center at Rogers Memorial Hospital
Focus Treatment Centers
Inner Door Center
Mirasol Eating Disorder Recovery Centers
Multi-Services Eating Disorders Association
Park Nicollet Melrose Center
Rosewood Centers for Eating Disorders
Walden Behavioral Care
Wrobel & Smith, PLLP

Hope Circle
American Anorexia and Bulimia Association of Philadelphia
BingeBehavior.com
Casa Palmera
Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)
EDN of Maryland
FEAST
FINDING*balance*
Gurze Books
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

March 8, 2016

Senator Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Al Franken
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Sherrod Brown
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tammy Baldwin
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Warren, Franken, Brown, Baldwin, and Blumenthal:

The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, and Action would like to express our strong support for your recently introduced legislation, "The Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act of 2016," (S. 2647) which would require health insurance issuers to disclose the analysis they perform in making mental health parity determinations for health insurance coverage, make federal regulators conduct random audits on at least twelve health plans per year, and create a central online portal for consumers to have a one-stop shop for all of the above parity-related information. This bill is a much-needed step towards enforcing the goals of The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA), and with this, we applaud your efforts and endorse this piece of legislation.

Few patients in the mental health field need the promises of parity fulfilled more than people with eating disorders. Eating disorders affect nearly 30 million Americans at some time in their life and have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness. Only one in ten people affected will receive treatment for their eating disorder, often faced with access to treatment challenges resulting from parity noncompliance. Given the complexity of this severe mental illness, eating disorders patients must receive the full continuum of care recommended by their treatment team without interruption. Without timely and appropriate treatment, their illness may worsen to reach a stage that is very costly to treat and difficult to reverse. Your bill will help to enforce parity and improve access to care for people with eating disorders.

The Anna Westin Act of 2015 (S. 1865) includes legislative goals similar to The Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act, clarifying coverage of life-saving residential treatment under parity as well as trainings to help with early identification of this disorder by health professionals and school personnel. We hope to work with you in the future to push forward this great piece of legislation that you have offered, as well as folding in the Anna Westin Act within future legislative action. Thank you for your leadership on behalf of all individuals and families who have been impacted by an eating disorder.

Sincerely,

Johanna Kandel
Board President
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action

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