



March 8, 2017

Congressman Tim Murphy
Chairman, Oversight and Investigations
Energy & Commerce Committee
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy:

The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, and Action would like to express our strong support for your Amendment to the House Resolution 154 to Repeal and Replace the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on the “Sense of Congress Relating to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Laws.” This amendment would maintain the protections from the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act for large group, small group, and individual health insurance plans, preventing discriminatory practices against mental health and substance use disorder coverage. The amendment also protects the advancements Congress has made for mental health parity eating disorders benefits and enforcement under the 21st Century Cures Act, passed in December 2016, with your leadership.

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. 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 amendment will maintain the current mental health parity and improve access to care for people with eating disorders.

We commend you for your continued leadership as a mental health and eating disorders champion and look forward to working with you in the future to continue protecting mental health parity and improving the lives of people affected by eating disorders. Thank you for your leadership on behalf of all individuals and families who have been impacted by an eating disorder.

Sincerely,

Bryn Austin
Board President
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action

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
Wrobel & Smith, PLLP

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
Eating Disorder Network of Maryland
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