

EDC ON THE HILL

2020

September Newsletter



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EDC Holds First Virtual Advocacy Day

On September 23, the Eating Disorders Coalition held its first-ever virtual advocacy day via Zoom. The virtual setting aided in one of the largest turnouts for our annual event with 185 advocates from 35 states and the District of Columbia meeting with 159 Congressional offices. We advocated for the bipartisan Nutrition CARE Act ([H.R. 3711/S. 2907](#)), as well as telehealth access/coverage improvement bills, including the bipartisan Health Care at Home Act ([H.R. 6644](#)) and Tele-Mental Health Improvement Act ([S. 3792](#)). A Phone2Action campaign for those unable to participate in the advocacy day drew 664 advocates who contacted their officials 1,897 times through email or phone outreach. For more information, view our advocacy day press release [here](#).



New Co-Sponsors of the Nutrition CARE Act ([H.R. 3711/S. 2907](#))

The impact of the Eating Disorder Coalition's advocacy is already making itself apparent in the form of additional co-sponsors for the Nutrition CARE Act, a bill which would establish Medical Nutrition Therapy for eating disorders as a covered outpatient benefit under Medicare. Since the advocacy day, Representatives Price (D-NC-04), Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-23), Cohen (D-TN-09), Yarmuth (D-KY-03), Suozzi (D-NY-03), Lowenthal (D-CA-47), Peters (D-CA-52), Ruppertsberger (D-MD-02), and Rep. Norton (D-DC-AL), along with Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), have all co-sponsored the legislation.

New Co-Sponsors of the Health Care at Home Act ([H.R. 6644](#))

EDC advocates successfully increased support for the Health Care at Home Act, which would expand telehealth, including tele-mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic for commercial and Affordable Care Act (ACA) health plans. Representatives Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-23), Deutch (D-FL-22), Cardenas (D-CA-29), Cohen (D-TN-09), McGovern (D-MA-02), Norton (D-DC-AL), Scanlon (D-PA-05), and Ruppertsberger (D-MD-02) have all signed onto the bill.

National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) Weight Stigma Awareness Week

NEDA's Weight Stigma Awareness Week, taking place from September 28 - October 2, aims to help the general public and the eating disorders community understand why weight stigma should be important to all people. EDC encourages our community to take action utilizing NEDA's graphics and messaging tools for use on social media, along with blogs and other helpful resources. Find more information [here](#).

EDC Letters of Support

California Senate Bill 855

The Eating Disorders Coalition joined 38 other organizations in a letter to California Governor Gavin Newsom, expressing support for [Senate Bill 855](#), which would increase access to mental health/substance use disorder care in the state by ensuring that health plans cover medically necessary care. Shortly after this letter was sent, Governor Newsom signed the bill into law! Read the letter [here](#).

Eating Disorder Prevention in Schools Act ([H.R. 6703](#))

The Eating Disorders Coalition signed onto a letter led by the National Eating Disorders Association to the House Education and Labor Committee and Senate Agriculture Committee in support of the bipartisan Eating Disorders Prevention in Schools Act, which would integrate eating disorders prevention into local school wellness policies. Read the letter [here](#).

Maternal Mental Health Hotline Funding

The Eating Disorders Coalition signed onto a letter led by the Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance (MMHLA) to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, requesting the inclusion of \$3.5M in funding for a “Maternal Mental Health Hotline” within the Fiscal Year 2021 LHHS Senate appropriations package. Read the letter [here](#).

Medicare Mental Health Access Act (H.R. 884/S. 2772)

The Eating Disorders Coalition joined a letter led by the American Psychological Association (APA) in support of the Medicare Mental Health Access Act, which would improve Medicare beneficiaries’ access to mental and behavioral health services provided by clinical psychologists. Read the House letter [here](#), and the Senate letter [here](#).

Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (H.R. 8094/S. 4249)

The Eating Disorders Coalition signed onto a Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) letter to the leaders of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, which would aim to reduce and prevent suicide and mental/behavioral health conditions among health care professionals. Read the House letter [here](#), and the Senate letter [here](#).

Eating Disorders Personal Story Collection

The Eating Disorders Coalition continues to collect stories from our advocates on their experiences as military members, veterans, and their families who are/were affected by eating disorders in order to inform our advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and develop a strong grassroots network of advocates across the U.S.

We are also collecting personal stories and advocacy interest from individuals on Medicare including persons aged 65 years of age and older and persons experiencing disabilities, and non-Medicare recipients who have had issues gaining insurance coverage for Nutrition Counseling (i.e. dietitian services) for their eating disorder.

If you have personal experiences with any of these issues, please fill out this [survey](#) for military and this [survey](#) for Medicare, disability, and/or Nutrition Counseling coverage.

EDC Action Alerts

The Eating Disorders Coalition continues to engage our community through Action Alerts via email and text message. We need your voice to contact elected officials to further important eating disorder legislative priorities. Would you like to be notified about Action Alerts via our new text message advocacy system in the future? Sign up through this [link](#).

Thank you to our members who support EDC's successful policy efforts!

Champions Circle

- Residential Eating Disorders Consortium

Executive Circle

- Clementine
- Eating Recovery Center
- The Emily Program
- Monte Nido
- Oliver-Pyatt Centers
- Veritas Collaborative
- WithAll

Policy Circle

- Academy for Eating Disorders
- National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA)
- The Renfrew Center

Leadership Circle

- Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness
- Bannister Consultancy
- The Donahue Foundation
- Focus Treatment Center
- Gail R. Schoenbach FREED Foundation
- International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals Foundation (iaedp)
- Reasons Eating Disorder Center

Support Circle

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)
- Alsana: Eating Disorders Treatment and Recovery Centers
- Cambridge Eating Disorder Center
- Center for Discovery
- The Center for Eating Disorders at Sheppard Pratt
- Eating Disorder Hope
- Mirasol Eating Disorder Recovery Centers
- Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association
- Park Nicollet Melrose Center
- Rosewood Centers for Eating Disorders
- Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED)

Hope Circle

- Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)
- Rogers Behavioral Health
- Eating Disorder Therapy LA
- FEAST
- International Federation of Eating Disorders Dietitians (IFEDD)
- Moonshadow's Spirit
- The National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD)

Advocacy Circle

- Center for Change
- Laureate Eating Disorders Program
- Walden Behavioral Care

- Project HEAL
- Stay Strong Virginia
- Wrobel & Smith, PLLP

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