



White House Declares Presidential Proclamation For Eating Disorders Awareness Week

(WASHINGTON, DC) February 18, 2022- The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) commemorates the [White House Presidential Proclamation](#) for National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. This is the first administration in three decades to recognize the week. President George H.W. Bush signed the first ever proclamation recognizing National Eating Disorders Awareness Week in [1990](#). This is a historic moment for the eating disorders community, and the EDC thanks President Biden for acknowledging February 21-27, 2022, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week to prioritize eating disorders as mental illnesses that deserve attention across the nation.

Eating Disorders Awareness Week is a time to educate individuals on the serious nature of eating disorders. At least 28.8 million Americans will suffer from an eating disorder in their lifetime. Eating disorders affect people of all ages, genders, races, ethnicities, genders, and socioeconomic groups. Eating disorders have the second highest mortality rate of any mental illness. Sadly, one person dies every 52 minutes as a direct result of an eating disorder. Eating disorders are a bio-psycho-social diseases, which means that genetic, biological, environmental, and social elements all play a role in the development of an eating disorder.

“The National Alliance for Eating Disorders thanks President Biden for commemorating Eating Disorders Awareness Week. For far too long, eating disorders have been excluded from conversations about serious mental illness, and we are thrilled to see this affirmative change from the highest office,” **said Johanna Kandel, Founder & CEO of The National Alliance for Eating Disorders**, the leading national organization providing eating disorder help, support, and education. “As The Alliance continues to provide life-saving services in communities across the nation, we are grateful for the Administration’s focus on this insidious illness to ensure that not one more life is taken too soon.”

While attention must be brought to the serious nature of eating disorders, it is also important to recognize that full recovery is possible. With proper treatment and support, individuals can fully recover from this illness. Education, early prevention, and access to care are critical elements to the healing of one’s eating disorder. The White House Presidential Proclamation will assist Americans understanding of eating disorders. The EDC will continue to work with Biden Administration to advance additional opportunities for eating disorders recognition, prevention, and intervention.

“No one should have to suffer with eating disorders. These serious medical conditions affect people living in America of all ages, racial/ethnic backgrounds, genders, sexual orientations, body shapes, weights, and socioeconomic statuses,” **said ADM Rachel Levine, MD, Assistant Secretary for Health**. “The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is committed to fighting eating disorders by improving access to care, reducing stigma, and expanding prevention awareness in our communities.”

“The Eating Disorders Coalition is immensely thankful to President Biden and his administration for issuing the White House Presidential Proclamation in honor of Eating Disorders Awareness Week,” **said Chase Bannister, MDIV, MSW, LCSW, CEDS, Board President of the EDC**. “The EDC works tirelessly every day to advance the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States.

We are humbled to have eating disorders amplified at the highest office within the federal government. This Proclamation serves as a watershed moment to advance education, research, funding, and treatment for eating disorders.”

For more information and resources on eating disorders and treatment please visit:

- National Alliance for Eating Disorders: <http://www.allianceforeatingdisorders.com>
- National Alliance for Eating Disorders’ Treatment Search Tool: <http://findEDhelp.com>
- National Eating Disorders Association: <http://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org>

The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is a Washington, DC-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of advocacy organizations, academics, treatment providers, family/loved ones of children with eating disorders, and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States. Additional resources can also be found at eatingdisorderscoalition.org.

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