



## **EDC Celebrates Senate and House Champions for Eating Disorders on World Eating Disorders Action Day**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 2, 2022)—Today is World Eating Disorders Action Day, a day to unite eating disorder activists, professionals, parents/caregivers, and those personally affected to promote worldwide knowledge of eating disorders and the need for early intervention and comprehensive treatment. In honor of the day, the Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) acknowledges and gives thanks to the U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators leading EDC's Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) appropriations requests.

The EDC extends gratitude to Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), and Representatives Ted Deutch (D-FL-22), Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ-02), Andrew Garbarino (R-NY-02), Paul Tonko (D-NY-20), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01), and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-07) for leading EDC's requests in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) Subcommittee. Additionally, the EDC applauds Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and Mike Rounds (R-SD), and Representatives Seth Moulton (D-MA-06), Grace Meng (D-NY-06), John Katko (R-NY-24), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01), and Veronica Escobar (D-TX-16) for leading EDC's requests in the Defense Subcommittee. With the additional support of 58 Members of Congress, a letter was sent to the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee leadership urging for their support for EDC's requests.

The EDC's LHHS requests include:

- Funding for the Primary Care Training and Enhancement programs within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to enhance early diagnosis and referral to eating disorders treatment in the primary care setting.
- Reintegration of unhealthy weight control practice questions within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey.
- Funding for an eating disorders awareness campaign by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide education and implementation of proper prevention strategies.
- Strong funding for the National Institutes of Health to increase eating disorders research funding across NIH Institutes and Centers.

"We are failing our community by not having affordable, accessible screening and treatment for eating disorders in every state," **said Kathryn Smith, LPC, NCC, EDC Ambassador.** "EDC's funding request for the Primary Care Training and Enhancement program will be lifesaving and life enhancing for many. We should not have to send clients out of state to obtain services due to lack of eating disorder resources, basic training, and knowledge by local providers. With funding, we can educate our medical providers to assess eating disorders, attract more mental health professionals to treat eating disorders, and have a huge impact on the lives of many."

"Training for the medical community is critically important," said **Ann and Paul Sassano, EDC Ambassadors**. "In our family's experience many medical professionals are not aware of how to recognize and support patients with eating disorders. A trip to the emergency room may unfortunately exacerbate an already fraught situation. There has been a rapid increase of eating disorders and inefficient resources to address the need. The nation will absolutely benefit from funding that supports public awareness and prevention for eating disorders."

The EDC is also advocating for two appropriation requests within the Defense Subcommittee. The first request is for funding for the Secretary of Defense to furnish training for direct care military medical professionals on how to screen, briefly intervene, and refer to treatment for eating disorders. The second request urges for the continuation of eating disorders as an eligible topic, under the Defense Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program.

"Eating disorders are often overlooked and under resourced as a serious mental health condition. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the need for increased mental health services and supports," said **Chase Bannister, MDiv, MSW, LCSW, CEDS, President of EDC's Board of Directors**. "EDC's requests have the potential to make profound impacts on the lives of those with eating disorders. The EDC has tremendous appreciation for the Representatives and Senators that are leading EDC's FY23 requests. The EDC urges the leaders of LHHS and the Defense Subcommittee to support the requests and provide the necessary funding."

To learn more about EDC's respective appropriations requests the House and Senate letters can be viewed [here](#).

Please consider taking action yourself by donating your time or resources to the EDC. Become an ambassador [here](#) and/or make a financial contribution [here](#).

*The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is a federal advocacy organization based in Washington, DC. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States. Additional resources can be found at [eatingdisorderscoalition.org](http://eatingdisorderscoalition.org).*

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