

Executive Circle

Eating Recovery Center
The Emily Program
The Emily Program Foundation
Kantor & Kantor, LLP
Oliver-Pyatt Centers
Residential Eating Disorders Consortium
Veritas Collaborative

Policy Circle

Academy for Eating Disorders
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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
Center for Change
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
Mirasol Eating Disorder Recovery Centers
Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association
Park Nicollet Melrose Center
Rosewood Centers for Eating Disorders
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International Federation of Eating Disorders Dietitians (IFEDD)
McCallum Place Eating Disorder Centers
The National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Eating Disorders
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Congress Makes History by Passing First-Ever Eating Disorders Legislation

Historic bipartisan legislation helping to early identify and improve access to treatment for the 30 million Americans experiencing an eating disorder passes with larger 21st Century Cures and Mental Health Reform Package

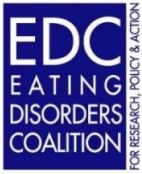
WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 7, 2016) — Today is a historic day for the 30 million Americans experiencing an eating disorder in their lifetimes. For the first time in history, Congress passed legislation specifically designed to help people with eating disorders. The bill will reach President Barack Obama's desk within the week and is expected to be signed into law given the President's [recent support statement](#) for the legislation.

The House Amendment to the Senate Amendment of H.R. 34, which includes the 21st Century Cures and Mental Health Reform Act of 2016 along with other health funding authorizations, passed the House of Representatives with a 392-26 vote on November 30th and the Senate today by 94-5. The legislation includes key provisions from the bipartisan, bicameral Anna Westin Act of 2015 (S. 1865 / H.R. 2515), including clarification of existing mental health parity law to improve health insurance coverage for eating disorders and life-saving residential treatment, early identification of eating disorders trainings for health professional such as doctors, and enhanced information and resources to help early identification of eating disorders by the public.

The Anna Westin Act of 2015 was introduced a mere year and half ago in the summer of 2015 by Senator Amy Klobuchar [D-MN] and Congressman Ted Deutch [D-FL] along with their colleagues Senator Kelly Ayotte [R-NH], Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen [R-FL], Senator Tammy Baldwin [D-WI] and Senator Shelley Moore Capito [R-WV]. The Anna Westin Act was named in honor of Minnesota-native Anna Westin who struggled with anorexia for five years and lost her life due to the illness at the young age of 21. To learn more about Anna's story, Netsmart's EveryDayMatters created a short video that can be [viewed here](#).

"Millions of Americans suffer from eating disorders but very few get the help they need. Anna Westin, who this bill is named for, died after struggling with an eating disorder for several years. Her mom, Kitty, lives in my state and has been a leading voice in the effort to do more to support patients," **said Klobuchar**. "Passing our bipartisan legislation into law brings us one step closer to preventing future tragedies and giving patients the tools they need to get help."

Kitty Westin, mother of Anna Westin and board member of the Eating Disorders Coalition noted, "This has been an incredibly long journey that started for me the day Anna died over 16 years ago. It has taken 16 years to accomplish what we did today, pass eating disorders specific legislation. The journey was often painful, frustrating, exhausting and incredibly sad, but it has always been a journey of love. Love for Anna, love for all the others who have lost their battle with an eating disorder and love for all



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those who are suffering. While I understand that the journey is far from over, I celebrate this great accomplishment that will help millions of people just like Anna.”

Congressman Ted Deutch [D-FL] stated, “The passage of this legislation is a testament to the incredible strength of families like the Westins—families who have lost a loved one after a long fight for eating disorders treatment. This moment is an important step toward breaking down the stigma that keeps these diseases in the shadows, helping to educate our society about eating disorders, and supporting millions of Americans on their journey to recovery. I am so thankful for Johanna and her team at the EDC, the countless advocates who have dedicated their time and energy to this cause, and my colleagues for their support of the Anna Westin Act.”

“I am pleased that this bill contains key provisions from the bipartisan Anna Westin Act – which I helped introduce and pushed for during my time in the Senate – to ensure that the 45,000 Granite Staters who are struggling with an eating disorder have greater access to a variety of treatment options. The provisions included will help ensure parity for eating disorder treatments so that individuals with eating disorders can receive the same level of care that is available to those who are suffering from medical conditions and other mental health illnesses,” **said Senator Ayotte.**

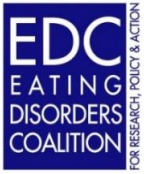
“I’m proud to support this bill which will help boost biotechnology research and medical care, provide crucial reforms to mental health programs, and develop new tools to fight alcohol and drug addiction, all for the long-term benefit of the American people,” **said Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen [R-FL].** “The spirit of the Anna Westin Act, which I introduced with my friend, Ted, is also present in this bill, providing an avenue for millions of young Americans impacted by eating disorders to seek the help they need.”

“I am proud of our bipartisan effort to enact the essential reforms of the *Anna Westin Act*, which I worked on with Senators Klobuchar, Capito and Ayotte, to improve access to affordable treatment for those struggling with eating disorders and to help health professionals better recognize and understand eating disorders,” **said Senator Baldwin.** “Women and men with eating disorders deserve the same access to quality health care that is available to individuals who are suffering from medical conditions and other mental health illnesses. I applaud today’s passage of the Anna Westin Act, which will take significant steps to improve prevention, treatment, and diagnosis to better support the 192,000 Wisconsinites who are struggling with an eating disorder.”

“Many years of hard work are represented with today’s passage of the Anna Westin Act. This legislation will have a profound impact on the millions of Americans experiencing eating disorders and will help ensure they will not be denied access to the same mental health services as those facing other types of illnesses. I am proud of the role I was able to play in passing this bill, and thank the family of Anna Westin, who the bill is named for, for all they have done in support of this groundbreaking legislation,” **said Senator Capito.**

Since the bill’s introduction, the Anna Westin Act alone has received the support of 101 Senators and Congressman, including 36 Republicans and 65 Democrats, marking the most bipartisan legislation in eating disorders history.

“After 16 years of advocating on Capitol Hill, today the voices of the more than 30 million Americans struggling with eating disorders were heard,” said **Johanna Kandel, Board President of the Eating Disorders Coalition and CEO of Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness in West Palm Beach, Florida.** “My deepest gratitude to our champions on the hill, as well as members of Congress for hearing their constituents and voting, on this nonpartisan issue. This legislation will save thousands of lives. It is alongside the tireless effort of many advocates, that we celebrate the passage of this first legislation impacting the treatment and early intervention of eating disorders.”



The Eating Disorders Coalition is a Washington, D.C.-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of treatment providers, advocacy organizations and entities, parents of children with eating disorders, and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. For more information contact Katrina Velasquez at the Eating Disorders Coalition at kvelasquez@eatingdisorderscoalition.org. Additional resources can also be found at www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org.

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