

June 4, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services
Education, and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking member, House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services
Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Hoeven, Ranking Member Shaheen, Chairman Harris, and Ranking Member Bishop,

On behalf of the following 215 national, state, and local organizations who support patients and families impacted by eating disorders, we urge you to address the increasingly critical public health issue of eating disorders in the United States. Unfortunately, no community is spared from the devastating impact of this serious mental illness including our service members, veterans, and youth. As you begin to work on the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) and the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies (Ag-FDA) Appropriations bills, we ask that you consider three requests within the FY26 LHHS and Ag-FDA bills.

Approximately 30 million Americans suffer from a clinically significant eating disorder during their lifetime.¹ Eating disorders cost \$65 billion annually and experts estimate that only one in ten people receive treatment.² These conditions have the second highest mortality of any mental illness, and every 52 minutes a life is lost as a direct result of an eating disorder.³ No group is spared the devastating effects of an eating disorder, including our pediatric populations. Unfortunately, research has shown a doubling in

¹ National Eating Disorders Association. What are eating disorders? (2024).

² South Carolina Department of Mental Health. Eating Disorder Statistics. (2019).

³ Facts About Eating Disorders. Eating disorders coalition: Facts about eating disorders. (n.d.-a).

https://eatingdisorderscoalition.org/inner_template/facts_and_info/facts-about-eating-disorders.html

eating disorder emergency room admissions for adolescent females and rising increase of pediatric mental health emergency room visits.^{4,5} These conditions can have lifelong health impacts on children if not identified early or prevented.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Office on Women's Health (OWH) within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health (OASH) and the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) all play critical roles in monitoring eating disorder prevalence and enhancing access to early intervention and prevention to keep families whole and healthy.

The following three bipartisan, bicameral requests aim to support cost-effective policies to support your constituents impacted by eating disorders and their families.

Labor, Health, and Human Services

SAMHSA

In 2018 under the 21st Century Cures authorization, SAMHSA created the Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders (ED-CoE) to provide training for health professionals to screen, briefly intervene, and refer patients to specialty care. Bipartisan efforts in Congress reauthorized the ED-CoE within the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023* (P.L.117-328) to continue early detection and intervention for eating disorders with a focus on the pediatric population. The agency has identified that public awareness activities are complimentary to its current work and a priority to enhance understanding of this mental illness within the general population. Acknowledging the impact SAMHSA has made on eating disorders prevention and recovery, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee provided \$5 million to support Eating Disorders Prevention in the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) LHHS appropriations report. As part of this work, the funding request includes for SAMHSA to continue its work training providers and conduct a public service announcement to better reach Americans impacted by an eating disorder so they can seek help.

For this reason, we urge the inclusion of funding and report language for the ED-CoE to continue provider training and significantly improve eating disorder identification, treatment and recovery for at risk populations including veterans, service members, and pediatric populations.

***Eating Disorders.**— Eating disorders will impact 30 million Americans in their lifetime and cost the United States \$64 billion annually. Between 2019-2022, emergency department visits for adolescent females doubled with higher levels of acuity. The Committee supports SAMHSA's work to address eating disorders amongst Americans, especially youth. The Committee provides \$5,000,000 to improve the availability of health care providers to respond to the needs of individuals with eating disorders including the work of the National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders to increase engagement with primary care providers, including pediatricians, to provide specialized advice and consultation as related to the screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment of eating disorders, as authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (PL-117-328). The committee directs SAMHSA to conduct a public service announcement on eating disorders to educate on the best practices to identify, prevent, and treat, an individual with an eating disorder. The Committee requests a report within 180 days of the enactment of this Act on the status of the public awareness campaign.*

⁴. Mental Health Related Emergency Department Visits Among Children Aged <18 Years During the COVID-19 Pandemic — Leeb RT, Bitsko RH, Radhakrishnan L, Martinez P, Njai R, Holland KM. (2020).

⁵ Pediatric Emergency Department Visits Associated with Mental Health Conditions Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic— Radhakrishnan, Lakshmi, Leeb, Rebecca, Bitsko, Rebecca & Anderson, Kayla. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 71. (2022).

Office on Women’s Health—OASH

While eating disorders occur in both men and women, females are at higher risk. In response to the alarming rise in eating disorders amongst adolescent females, the Office on Women’s Health awarded \$1,000,000 in discretionary grants in 2022 to Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri, and George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, to improve early detection and prevention of eating disorders in adolescent girls.⁶ Washington University developed a screening and detection protocol designed specifically for at-risk adolescent girls, through which they trained 690 health professionals and screened more than 1,300 girls for eating disorders.⁷ George Mason developed training materials for clinicians for improved detection and assessment of bulimia nervosa risk factors and symptoms – they trained 107 community-based mental health providers on improved recognition of eating disorders and trained an additional 99 community-based clinicians and school counselors in 2024.⁸ In FY24 and FY25, the committee provided \$750,000 for eating disorder research to improve early intervention in eating disorders to help with recovery to support this work. We thank the Committee for including \$750,000 in FY25 for eating disorders research under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health (OASH). This funding will continue to support early detection of eating disorders amongst women and girls to support recovery.

For these reasons, we urge you to include the following funding and report language request for research for women and girls to support early detection, prevention, and treatment of eating disorders.

***Eating Disorders Research.** — The Committee remains concerned that women and girls are at heightened risk for developing an eating disorder during their lifetime. The Committee recognizes OWH’s efforts to address the rise in eating disorders amongst adolescent girls. The Committee continues the funding of \$750,000 for eating disorders research and urges a focus on early detection and treatment protocols for women and girls with or at-risk of developing an eating disorder to help reduce long-term health care expenditures and disease acuity. The Committee encourages OWH to prioritize projects to address the lack of pediatric and adolescent screening in the primary care and pediatrics settings. The Committee urges OWH to coordinate with outside organizations, eating disorders specialists, and other groups as necessary to identify research needs of eating disorders amongst women and girls.*

Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

The Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) requirement was established by the *Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004* and further strengthened in 2010. Each local educational agency participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program must develop a LSWP that addresses physical activity, nutrition, and childhood obesity. Given the current adolescent mental health crisis, the current structure of LSWPs that solely address physical activity and nutrition education does not provide a comprehensive approach to the wellbeing of students. We thank the House and Senate Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies for including language to update LSWP’s to include “eating disorders education and prevention” in their reports in FY25.

⁶ Assistant Secretary for Health. HHS awards nearly \$1 million to address eating disorders in adolescent girls. HHS.gov. (2022).

⁷ Office on Women’s Health. (2025) Eating Disorder Activities [PowerPoint Slides]. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

⁸ Ibid.

For these reasons, we urge the inclusion of the following report language in the FY26 Agriculture Appropriations report.

Local School Wellness Policies.—The Committee acknowledges that difficulty accessing a variety of foods can cause significant issues, including poor physical health and eating disorders. The Committee directs the Secretary to update local school wellness policy guidance to incorporate eating disorder prevention and education into the existing local school wellness policy framework. The Committee requests a report within 120 days of the enactment of this act on the agency’s progress to update State Education Agencies on the inclusion of eating disorders education and prevention within Local School Wellness Policies.

We’d like to thank the committee for its support of eating disorders policy and research in previous fiscal years. Strong bipartisan support for eating disorders prevention, policy, and research will allow for lifesaving efforts for millions of your constituents and their families. We look forward to working with you in FY26 to bolster this support, which will make a profound difference for the millions of Americans and their families impacted by eating disorders.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

National

Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy,
& Action

Academy for Eating Disorders

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Active Minds

American Art Therapy Association

American Psychological Association

Anxiety and Depression Association of America

Crisis Text Line

Equip

Fairplay

IFEDD, The International Federation of Eating
Disorder Dietitians

Mental Health America

National Alliance for Eating Disorders

National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners

National Eating Disorders Association

Project HEAL

REDC

Treatment Communities of America

WithAll

Within Health

Alabama

Katie's Truth, Guntersville

Alaska

Alaska Eating Disorders Alliance

Arizona

Katie Klein Consulting, Tucson

Monte Nido Rosewood Ranch, Wickenburg

Monte Nido Rosewood, Scottsdale

Monte Nido Rosewood, Tempe

California

Center For Discovery Del Mar

Center for Discovery Glendale

Center For Discovery Granite Bay

Center For Discovery Irvine

Center For Discovery La Habra

Center For Discovery Lakewood

Center For Discovery Menlo Park

Center for Discovery Rancho Palos Verdes

Center For Discovery Sacramento

Center For Discovery San Diego Adolescent
Outpatient

Center for Discovery Temecula

Center For Discovery Thousand Oaks

Center for Discovery Torrance

Center For Discovery Woodland Hills

Center For Discovery, Beverly Hills

Bay Area Nutrition, Campbell

Eating Recovery Center, Irvine

Eating Recovery Center, Sacramento

Eating Disorders Resource Center
Monte Nido Clementine Calabasas
Monte Nido Clementine Malibu Lake, Agoura
Monte Nido Clementine, Orange County, Yorba
Monte Nido East Bay, Lafayette
Monte Nido Los Angeles
Monte Nido Vista, Agoura Hills
The Healthy Teen Project

Colorado

Acute Health, Denver
Eating Recovery Center, Denver, Residential
Eating Recovery Center, Denver, Outpatient
Eating Recovery Center, Denver, Franklin Street

Connecticut

Monte Nido Walden, Middletown
Center for Discovery Fairfield Adult
Center for Discovery Fairfield Young Adult
Program
Center for Discovery Greenwich
Center for Discovery Southport

District of Columbia

Children's National Medical Center

Florida

Center For Discovery Maitland
Center For Discovery Montverde
Center For Discovery Tampa
Galen Hope, Coral Gables
Galen Hope, Delray Beach
Monte Nido Clementine South Miami
Monte Nido Clementine, Palmetto Bay
Monte Nido Miami Day Treatment
Monte Nido Miami Residential
The Renfrew Center, Coconut Creek
The Renfrew Center, Orlando
The Renfrew Center, West Palm Beach

Georgia

Monte Nido Clementine, Atlanta
Monte Nido, Atlanta
The Emily Program, Atlanta
The Renfrew Center, Atlanta

Idaho

Center for Change, Boise

Illinois

Center For Discovery Chicago

Eating Recovery Center of Chicago, Huron
Eating Recovery Center Chicago Oak Brook

Center for Discovery Des Plaines
Center For Discovery Glenview
Monte Nido Chicago Day Treatment, Lombard
Monte Nido Chicago Residential Treatment,
Winfield
Monte Nido Clementine, Naperville
National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and
Associated Disorders (ANAD)
SunCloud Health, Chicago
SunCloud Health, Naperville
SunCloud Health, Northbrook
The Renfrew Center of Chicago

Indiana

Farrington Specialty Centers, Fort Wayne
Farrington Specialty Centers, Indianapolis
Farrington Specialty Centers, Plymouth

Iowa

Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa

Kansas

Center for the Advancement of Research on
Eating Behaviors at University of Kansas
Center For Discovery, Shawnee

Kentucky

University of Louisville Eating Anxiety
Treatment (EAT) Lab

Maryland

Andy's Big Heart, Baltimore
Courage to Nourish, College Park
Courage to Nourish, Columbia
Eating Recovery Center, 55 Schilling
Eating Recovery Center Baltimore, 101
Schilling
Eating Recovery Center Bethesda
SunCloud Health, Gaithersburg
The Renfrew Center, Baltimore
The Renfrew Center, Bethesda
Center for Discovery Columbia

Massachusetts

Multi Service Eating Disorders Association Inc
Monte Nido Walden, Dedham
Monte Nido Walden, Waltham
Monte Nido Walden, Westborough

Monte Nido, Laurel Hill
Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of
Eating Disorders (STRIPED)
The Renfrew Center, Boston

Michigan

Sanford West Behavioral Health Campus, Marne
Sanford Comprehensive Treatment for Eating
Disorders, Marne
Sanford Outpatient Center, Marne

Minnesota

The Emily Program, Anna Westin House for
Adolescents, St. Paul
The Emily Program, Anna Westin House for
Adults, St. Paul
The Emily Program, Anna Westin House West,
Minneapolis
The Emily Program, St. Louis Park
The Emily Program, St. Paul

Missouri

ACCESS Lab at Washington University in St.
Louis
Monte Nido Clementine, St. Louis
The Missouri Eating Disorders Council

New Jersey

Monte Nido Clementine Montgomery, Skillman
Monte Nido Clementine, Cherry Hill
Monte Nido, Parsippany
The Renfrew Center, Mount Laurel
The Renfrew Center, Paramus
Center For Discovery Bridgewater
Center For Discovery Paramus

New York

BALANCE Eating Disorder Treatment Center
Monte Nido Clementine Hudson Valley, South
Salem
Monte Nido Clementine, Briarcliff Manor
Monte Nido Clementine, North Shore
Monte Nido Clementine, West Nyack
Monte Nido River Towns, Irvington
Monte Nido Rockland, New City
Monte Nido Westchester, White Plains
Monte Nido Western New York, Victor
Monte Nido, Glen Cove
Monte Nido, Manhattan
Moonshadow's Spirit, Inc.
The Emilee Connection

The Renfrew Center, New York
The Renfrew Center, White Plains
Center For Discovery, East Quogue

North Carolina

Bannister Consultancy
Pace & Tebb Nutrition Counseling, Durham
The Emily Program, Charlotte
The Emily Program, Douglas
The Emily Program, Durham
The Renfrew Center, Charlotte

Ohio

Eating Recovery Center, Cincinnati
The Emily Program, Cleveland Residential,
Cleveland Heights
The Emily Program, Cleveland
The Emily Program, Columbus

Oklahoma

Living Hope Eating Disorder Treatment Center

Oregon

Center For Discovery Portland
Monte Nido Clementine Lake Oswego, West
Linn
Monte Nido Clementine Portland
Monte Nido Clementine, West Linn
Monte Nido Eugene Day Treatment, Eugene
Monte Nido Portland Day Treatment
Monte Nido Portland Residential Treatment
Monte Nido RainRock, Springfield

Pennsylvania

Andy's Big Heart, Royersford
Monte Nido Philadelphia, Villanova
Pennsylvania Nutrition Counseling, LLC
The Emily Program, Pittsburgh
The Renfrew Center, Philadelphia
The Renfrew Center, Philadelphia, Center City
The Renfrew Center, Pittsburgh
The Renfrew Center, Radnor

South Dakota

Victus Counseling, Sioux Falls

Tennessee

The Renfrew Center, Nashville

Texas

Eating Recovery Center, Austin

Eating Recovery Center, Plano
Eating Recovery Center, Dallas/Plano Baylor
Campus, Inpatient & Residential
Eating Recovery Center, Dallas/Plano Baylor
Campus, PHP/IOP
Eating Recovery Center, Houston
Eating Recovery Center, San Antonio
Eating Recovery Center, The Woodlands
Monte Nido Clementine Houston, Conroe
Monte Nido Houston Day Treatment
Monte Nido Houston Residential Treatment
Center For Discovery Addison
Center for Discovery Austin
Center For Discovery Cypress
Center For Discovery Houston
Center For Discovery Plano

Utah

Center for Change, Orem

Virginia

Center For Discovery Alexandria
Center For Discovery Fairfax
Center For Discovery McLean
Courage to Nourish, Alexandria
Donahue Family Foundation
Monte Nido Clementine Fairfax
Monte Nido Clementine Twin Lakes, Clifton
Monte Nido Tysons Corner Day Treatment,
McLean
Prosperity Eating Disorders & Wellness, Norfolk

Washington

Center For Discovery Edmonds
Center For Discovery Tacoma
Eating Recovery Center, Bellevue
The Emily Program, Seattle
The Emily Program, Seattle Residential
The Emily Program, Spokane

West Virginia

West Virginia University Disordered Eating
Center of Charleston (DECC)

Wisconsin

Inner Haven Wellness, Madison
Inner Haven Wellness, Neenah
Project Maria, Milton