

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2014

Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW, - Room 7100
Washington, DC 20548

Eating disorders - such as anorexia, bulimia, and binge eating disorder - include extreme emotions, attitudes, and behaviors surrounding weight and food issues. They are serious emotional, mental, and physical problems that can have serious health and even life-threatening consequences for people regardless of gender, age, race, etc. Eating disorders directly or indirectly impact each and every one of us.

We, the undersigned members of the National Eating Disorders Awareness Caucus, are writing to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) undertake a review of the prevalence, mortality rate, and economic impact of eating disorders in the United States.

Specifically, we request that GAO's examination look into three areas:

- Who and how many people suffer from eating disorders?
- What is the risk of death among individuals with eating disorders?
- What is the economic impact of eating disorders in the United States?

Attached we have included a list of specific questions we would like answered so that we as a caucus, as well as a nation, have a better understanding of how individuals as well as our economy, are affected by eating disorders. The greater understanding that comes with the results of this study will assist in our nation's ability to prevent, detect, and treat eating disorders throughout the United States.

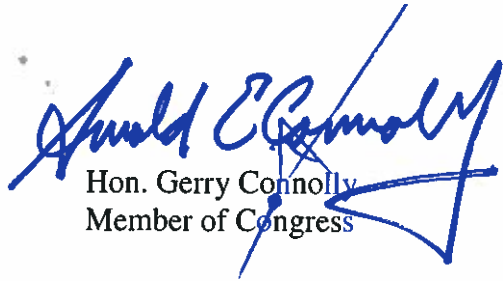
Sincerely,



Hon. Renee Ellmers
Co-Chair National Eating Disorders Caucus



Hon. Nita Lowey
Co-Chair National Eating Disorders Caucus



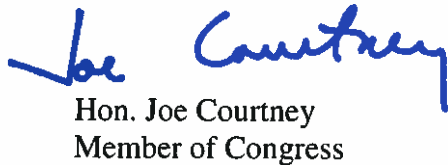
Hon. Gerry Connolly
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Hon. Clay Lacy
Member of Congress



Hon. Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



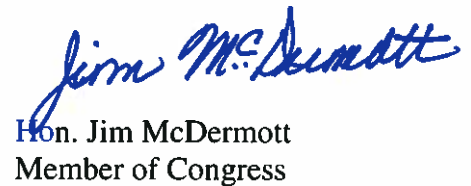
Hon. Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Hon. Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



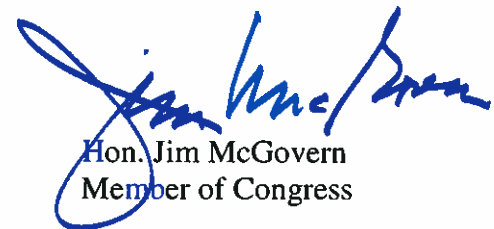
Hon. Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



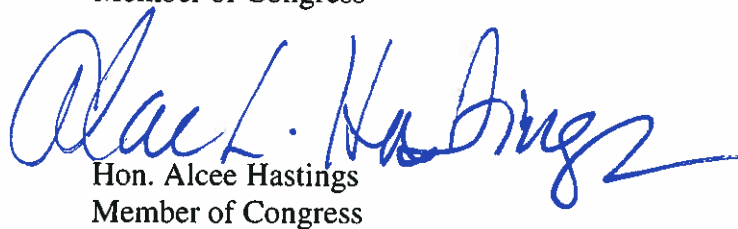
Hon. Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



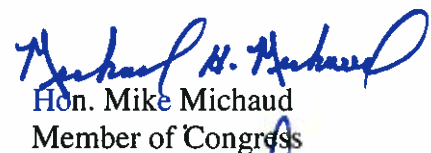
Hon. Richard Hanna
Member of Congress



Hon. Jim McGovern
Member of Congress



Hon. Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



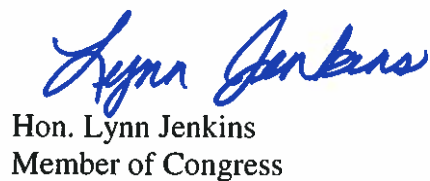
Hon. Mike Michaud
Member of Congress



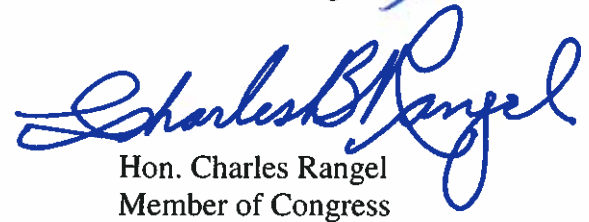
Hon. Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Hon. Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Hon. Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Hon. Charles Rangel
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter

Hon. Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

Adam Smith

Hon. Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Henry Waxman

Hon. Henry Waxman
Member of Congress

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1. Would prevention programs and early intervention treatments mitigate the costs associated with treating an eating disorder that has taken control of a patient's life?
2. Is there an advantage to early screening?
3. What age should screening begin?
4. Is there an advantage of early detection of ED?
5. How do we attain better statistics on cause of death from ED?