

The Honorable ***
United States Senate
*** Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator *** and staff,

Thank you so very much for making time to meet with myself and the group of advocates representing the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) on Thursday, October 10th. We appreciate your willingness to hear our stories and personal experiences with these deadly illnesses.

As we discussed, eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness, and in the United States, 20 million women and 10 million men suffer from a clinically significant eating disorder at some time in their life. Despite their prevalence, research into eating disorders continues to be underfunded, insurance coverage for treatment is inadequate, and societal pressures to be thin remain rampant. However, NEDA is working with members of Congress in the fight to make eating disorders a thing of the past. We ask that you join us in support of our cause by agreeing to sign on to one or more of the following initiatives:

- 1) Please send a letter to the Government Accountability Office requesting a research study into the prevalence, death rates and economic burden of eating disorders. A similar letter is being sent from the National Eating Disorders Awareness Caucus in the House.
- 2) Please sign on a co-sponsor of S.562, The Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2013. Sponsored by Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and John Barrasso (R-WY), the bill amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare) to provide for the reimbursement of services provided by Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) and Mental Health Counselors (MHCs) under Medicare part B. For individuals with eating disorders in rural areas, access to local Mental Health Counselors is vital

Thank you again for agreeing to meet with our group. We hope that we can count on your support of our mission and commitment to sign on to our congressional initiatives. Please do not hesitate to reach out if the National Eating Disorders Association can be of any help to you and your constituents by contacting Taryn O'Brien, STAR Program Manager at tobrien@nationaleatingdisorders.org.

Sincerely,