

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 14, 2011

National Eating Disorders Association  
603 Stewart St. #803  
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Friends:

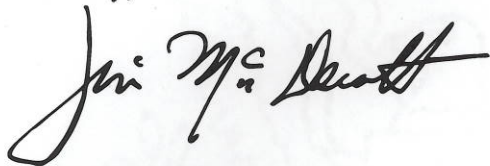
Greetings as you gather for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual National Eating Disorders Association Walk in Seattle. I regret that my Congressional schedule does not permit me to join you today.

An estimated 11 million people in the United States are afflicted with eating disorders, but many of them suffer stigmatization and many are not able to get the help they need. NEDA works to raise awareness, to combat stigma, to advocate for access to care, and to link people to the professional help they need. Your work has made a real difference in people's lives and in our country's ongoing quest to ensure quality health care and optimal health for all, which should be a right in a democratic society.

By walking today, you are helping to raise money for this worthy organization. Perhaps more importantly, you are giving encouragement to others to step out and build support in our community for people affected by eating disorders.

Best wishes for a successful walk, and thank you for your advocacy..

Sincerely,



JIM McDERMOTT  
Member of Congress