



January 2016

The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy III  
United States House of Representatives  
306 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kennedy III,

The Emily Program Foundation applauds you for introducing The Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act (H.R. 4276). We would like to offer our full support of the bill which will save lives by strengthening parity in mental health benefits for eating disorders and providing support to the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act intended to cover all mental health treatment equally to medical/surgical health.

So many Americans seek treatment for eating disorders, and are invariably denied recommended treatment. Not only is the process of covering initial intake services complicated, but when higher levels of care are needed the denial rates skyrocket. Vague explanations are given from the insurance companies as to why they denied recommended treatment, leaving eating disorder sufferers and caregivers confused and deeply discouraged. Holding insurance companies accountable for covering recommended eating disorder treatment procedures set in The Mental Health Parity and Addictions Equity Act of 2008 will restore hope to those who feel powerless in their financial battle against insurance companies.

Thank you for championing The Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act and for your dedication to helping the 30 million people who suffer from eating disorders in the United States. It is leaders like you who give us all hope for a future where eating disorders are treated equal to medical/surgical health care.

With deep respect,

Kitty Westin  
Member of the Board  
The Emily Program Foundation

Larry Espel  
President  
The Emily Program Foundation

Kiki Schmit  
Community Organizer  
The Emily Program Foundation