**Nutrition CARE Act** S.3010/H.R.6961

**Sponsors:** Sens. Hassan (D-NH) & Murkowski (R-AK) and Reps. Chu (D-CA-27), Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1), Blunt Rochester (D-DE-AL), & Bacon (R-NE-2)

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**The Need:** Eating disorders are costly and deadly to Medicare beneficiaries.

- **$65B** annual economic cost of eating disorders to U.S.\(^1\)
- **52 mins** how often one person dies from an eating disorder \(^2\)
- **$20K** higher average health expenditures for each Medicare enrollee w/ an eating disorder \(^3\)
- **6+** number of comorbid conditions reported by most Medicare enrollees with eating disorders \(^4\)

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**The Problem:** Medicare does not cover outpatient Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) for people with eating disorders, even though it is an essential component of treatment.

**Four elements of successful eating disorders treatment**

- **Therapy**
- **Medical Nutrition Therapy**
- **Psychiatry**
- **Medical Care**

Forgoing outpatient MNT raises likelihood of hospitalization & hinders long-term recovery \(^6\)

**Medical Nutrition Therapy (n):** 7 nutrition-based therapeutic and counseling treatment by a registered dietitian nutritionist

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**The Solution:** Provide Medical Nutrition Therapy coverage benefits to Medicare beneficiaries with eating disorders

- **Equal MNT coverage to the currently available Medicare Part B benefit for diabetes and renal disease**
- **$** Significant savings created by treating expensive & complex illnesses at outpatient level

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Interested in cosponsoring?

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**House:** Email Maddy.Hanley@mail.house.gov (Chu) or Jacqueline.Baggett@mail.house.gov (Fitzpatrick)

2 Ibid.


