



EDC Celebrates Wins Within NDAA, Continues Advocating on Appropriations, and Decries Partisanship of the *Kids Online Safety Act*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 21, 2024)- The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research Policy, & Action (EDC) celebrates the passage of report language to protect servicemembers' health and safety within the *National Defense Authorization Act of 2025* (NDAA). In 2022, the Operation Supplement Safety program was mandated to educate servicemembers in all military branches on safe dietary supplement use given 70 percent of military personnel report using dietary supplements.¹ However, given the risks for adverse events and reports of dietary supplements contaminated with illegal substances, it is imperative the U.S. Department of Defense is directing resources to effectively educate all branches of the military on safe supplement use. To address these concerns, language within the NDAA has directed the Secretary of Defense to provide a brief to the U.S. Congress on the program's educational efforts across military branches by March 2025. EDC extends our appreciation to Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) and the House and Senate Armed Services Committee for their steadfast support in advancing this crucial language.

In addition to this important legislative achievement, EDC is pleased to share that our Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) funding requests for eating disorder research, training, and prevention are moving toward further consideration in the new year. With Congress set to vote on the final spending package for FY25 in March 2025, EDC is grateful for the leadership and support of the following Members of Congress for championing our initiatives including U.S. Senators Baldwin (D-WI), Britt (R-AL), Boozman (R-AR), Capito (R-WV), Heinrich (R-NM), Hoeven (R-ND), and Shaheen (D-NH), and U.S. House of Representatives Aderholt (R-AL-04), Bice (R-OK-05), Bishop (D-GA-02), Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12), Ciscomani (R-AZ-06), DeLauro (D-CT-03), Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01), Garbarino (R-NY-02), Harris (R-MD-01), Kaptur (D-OH-09), Letlow (R-LA-05), Manning (D-NC-01), Pingree (D-ME-01), Spanberger (D-VA-07), Tonko (D-NY-20), and Valadao (R-CA-22).

While we celebrate these significant legislative achievements, we must also address the setbacks we've encountered. The EDC is deeply disappointed in the U.S. House of Representatives Republican leadership for excluding the *Kids Online Safety Act* (KOSA) from the Continuing

¹ Pew Charitable Trusts. (October 2017). Dietary Supplement Use in the Military. Retrieved from https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2017/10/hcp_dietary_supplement_use_in_the_military_final.pdf

Resolution, preventing the critical bill from becoming law this year. Over the last two and a half years, the EDC has worked tirelessly at the forefront to advocate for a safer online environment for children and teens. KOSA represents a critical step toward addressing these concerns at the federal level.

Despite bipartisan support, a unanimous vote out of the Senate Commerce Committee, a remarkable 91-3 vote in the Senate, and passage through the House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Republican leadership failed children, teens, and families across the nation. Neglecting to include KOSA in the Continuing Resolution, House Republican leadership missed a historic opportunity to safeguard the mental health of countless young people, including those at risk of or struggling with eating disorders.

"We stand at a pivotal moment in our commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of our servicemembers through the passage of crucial report language in the NDAA," **said Christine Peat, President of the Board of Directors, EDC.** "EDC is grateful for the leadership of Senator Blumenthal and the Armed Services Committee, whose unwavering support strengthens our mission to educate military personnel about safe dietary supplement use. As we celebrate this progress, we remain mindful of the urgent need for legislation like the Kids Online Safety Act, which was regrettably sidelined. This bill is essential in ensuring a safer online environment for our youth, particularly those vulnerable to eating disorders. As advocates, we will continue to fight for the legislative changes necessary to protect and promote the health of all individuals."

The EDC will persist in our efforts to educate, raise awareness, and push for legislative action in the coming year. With the support of our dedicated champions in Congress, we are determined to build on our successes and overcome obstacles to create a healthier, more supportive environment for those affected by eating disorders.

The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action is a federal advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States.

Media Contact:

Emily Rosenberg, erosenberg@eatingdisorderscoalition.org