

2018 -- S 2312

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2018, AS "EATING DISORDERS
AWARENESS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Lombardi, Satchell, Lombardo, and Conley

Date Introduced: February 07, 2018

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The week of February 26th through March 4th, 2018, marks the observance
2 of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week; and

3 WHEREAS, The 2018 Theme of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is "Let's
4 Get Real," and will focus on expanding the conversation around eating disorders to include the
5 diverse perspectives of the millions of people affected. Eating disorders are shrouded in stigma,
6 secrecy, and stereotypes, and the goal of this year's campaign is to shine a light on these deadly
7 illnesses, dispel misinformation, and connect people with the support they need to recover; and

8 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are serious conditions that are potentially life-threatening
9 and have a great impact on both a person's physical and emotional health. Too often, signs and
10 symptoms are overlooked, and many individuals, families, and communities are unaware of the
11 devastating mental and physical consequences of eating disorders, as well as the pressures,
12 attitudes, and behaviors which shape them; and

13 WHEREAS, In the United States, 20 million women and 10 million men suffer from
14 clinically significant eating disorders at some time in their life. These disorders affect people
15 across all backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorders;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The National Eating Disorders Association strives to address the many
18 misconceptions regarding eating disorders, and to highlight the availability of resources for
19 treatment and support; and

1 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is a collaborative effort
2 consisting primarily of volunteers, including eating disorder professionals, health care providers,
3 students, educators, social workers, and individuals committed to raising awareness of the
4 dangers surrounding eating disorders and the need for early intervention and treatment access;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Eating Disorders usually appear in adolescence and are associated with
7 substantial psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide. They are
8 serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices; in fact, anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any
9 mental illness; and

10 WHEREAS, Many cases of eating disorders go undetected. Less than one-third of youth
11 with eating disorders will receive treatment; and

12 WHEREAS, Eating disorders experts have found that prompt intensive treatment
13 significantly improves the chances of recovery. Therefore, it is important for educators, medical
14 providers, parents, and community members to be aware of the warning signs and the symptoms
15 of eating disorders; and

16 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will encourage people to share
17 their stories and experiences with disordered eating and body image struggles. It also provides an
18 opportunity to highlight the importance of screenings for the early detection and intervention of
19 eating disorders, and bust myths and present eating disorders as a public health issue that affects
20 all kinds of people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size, or background; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
22 hereby proclaims the week of February 26 through March 4, 2018, as "Eating Disorders
23 Awareness Week" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That this Senate recognizes the vital work of National Eating Disorders
25 Awareness Week in promoting public and media attention to the seriousness of eating disorders
26 and for working to improve education about their biological and environmental causes, as well as
27 how to help those who are struggling with these debilitating diseases; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
29 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Gina Raimondo, Governor of the
30 State of Rhode Island, The National Eating Disorders Association, Brown University's Project
31 HEAL, and the Eating Disorder Program at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

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