

1 SJR76
2 190759-2
3 By Senator Allen
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 20-FEB-18

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8 RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2018, AS
9 NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK.

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11 WHEREAS, the 2018 Theme of National Eating Disorders
12 Awareness Week is "Let's Get Real" which will focus on
13 expanding the conversation around eating disorders to include
14 the diverse perspectives of millions of people affected;
15 eating disorders are shrouded in stigma, secrecy, and
16 stereotypes and the goal of the 2018 campaign is to shine a
17 light on these deadly illnesses, dispel misinformation, and
18 connect people with the support they need to recover; and

19 WHEREAS, eating disorders are serious conditions
20 that are potentially life-threatening and have a great impact
21 on a person's physical and emotional health, signs and
22 symptoms are often overlooked, and many are unaware of the
23 devastating mental and physical consequences of eating
24 disorders, as well as the pressures, attitudes, and behaviors
25 which shape them; and

26 WHEREAS, in the United States, 20 million women and
27 10 million men suffer from clinically significant eating

1 disorders at some time in their lives; these disorders affect
2 people across all backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa,
3 bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorders; and

4 WHEREAS, the National Eating Disorders Association
5 strives to address the many misconceptions regarding eating
6 disorders and to highlight the availability of resources for
7 treatment and support; and

8 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is
9 a collaborative effort of volunteers, including eating
10 disorder professionals, health care providers, students,
11 educators, social workers, and individuals committed to
12 raising awareness of the dangers surrounding eating disorders
13 and the need for early intervention and treatment access; and

14 WHEREAS, eating disorders usually appear in
15 adolescence and are associated with substantial psychological
16 problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide;
17 eating disorders are serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices;
18 anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, many cases of eating disorders go
21 undetected, and less than one-third of youth with eating
22 disorders actually receive treatment; and

23 WHEREAS, eating disorder experts have found that
24 prompt intensive treatment significantly improves the chances
25 of recovery; it is important for educators, medical providers,
26 parents, and community members to be aware of the warning
27 signs and the symptoms of eating disorders; and

1 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week
2 will encourage people to share their stories and experiences
3 with disordered eating and body image struggles; and highlight
4 the importance of screenings for the early detection and
5 intervention of eating disorders; it will bust myths and
6 present eating disorders as a public health issue that affects
7 people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size, or
8 background; and

9 WHEREAS, recognition of the vital work of National
10 Eating Disorders Awareness Week in promoting public and media
11 attention to the seriousness of eating disorders and working
12 to improve education about their causes will help those who
13 are struggling with these debilitating diseases; now
14 therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
16 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That February 26 through March 4,
17 2018, is recognized as National Eating Disorders Awareness
18 Week.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
20 resolution be provided to the National Eating Disorders
21 Association and the Alabama Department of Public Health.