**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE FEBRUARY 25 THROUGH MARCH 3, 2019, AS “EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK” IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK AND TO DECLARE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019, AS “EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the theme of this year’s National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is “Come as You Are,” which highlights the movement toward inclusivity in the greater eating disorder community and the goal of unifying the field of eating disorders. In particular, “Come as You Are” sends a message to individuals at all stages of body acceptance and eating disorders recovery that their stories are valid; and

Whereas, an estimated four thousand adolescents in South Carolina struggle with an eating disorder, and the South Carolina Eating Disorders Association (SCEDA) provides critical support for these young people and their families and friends, raises community awareness, offers educational programs, and promotes quality care and early intervention; and

Whereas, eating disorders are serious conditions that are potentially life‑threatening and have a great impact on a person’s physical and emotional health. Too often, signs and symptoms are overlooked. Many individuals, families, and communities are unaware of the devastating mental and physical consequences of eating disorders, as well as the pressures, attitudes, and behaviors that shape them. The National Eating Disorders Association strives to address the many misconceptions regarding eating disorders and seeks to highlight the availability of resources for treatment and support; and

Whereas, eating disorders usually appear in adolescence and are associated with substantial psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide. They are serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices. In fact, anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness; and

Whereas, many cases of eating disorders go undetected. Less than one third of youths with eating disorders will receive treatment. Eating disorders experts have found that prompt intensive treatment significantly improves the chances of recovery; therefore, it is important for educators, medical providers, parents, and community members to be aware of the warning signs and symptoms of eating disorders; and

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

Whereas, the House recognizes the vital work of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week in promoting public and media attention to the seriousness of eating disorders and for working to improve education about their biological and environmental causes, as well as how to help those who are struggling with these debilitating diseases. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, declare February 25 through March 3, 2019, as “Eating Disorders Awareness Week” in the State of South Carolina in recognition of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week and declare Wednesday, March 6, 2019, as “Eating Disorders Awareness Day” in South Carolina.

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