

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26
2 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2018, AS EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK IN THE STATE
3 OF IDAHO, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL EATING DISOR-
4 DERS AWARENESS WEEK.
5

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 WHEREAS, the 2018 theme of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is
8 "Let's Get Real" and will focus on expanding the conversation around eating
9 disorders to include the diverse perspectives of the millions of people af-
10 fected by eating disorders. Eating disorders are shrouded in stigma, se-
11 crecy and stereotypes, and the goal of this year's campaign is to shine a
12 light on these deadly illnesses, dispel misinformation and connect people
13 with the support they need to recover; and

14 WHEREAS, eating disorders are serious conditions that are potentially
15 life-threatening and have a great impact on both a person's physical and emo-
16 tional health. Too often, signs and symptoms are overlooked and many indi-
17 viduals, families and communities are unaware of the devastating mental and
18 physical consequences of eating disorders, as well as the pressures, atti-
19 tudes and behaviors that shape them; and

20 WHEREAS, in the United States, 20 million women and 10 million men
21 suffer from clinically significant eating disorders at some time in their
22 lives. These disorders affect people from all backgrounds and include
23 anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and binge eating disorders; and

24 WHEREAS, the National Eating Disorders Association strives to address
25 the many misconceptions regarding eating disorders and to highlight the
26 availability of resources for treatment and support; and

27 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is a collaborative
28 effort consisting primarily of volunteers, including eating disorder pro-
29 fessionals, health care providers, students, educators, social workers and
30 individuals committed to raising awareness of the dangers surrounding eat-
31 ing disorders and the need for early intervention and treatment access; and

32 WHEREAS, eating disorders usually appear in adolescence and are as-
33 sociated with substantial psychological problems, including depression,
34 substance abuse and suicide. They are serious illnesses, not lifestyle
35 choices. In fact, anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental
36 illness; and

37 WHEREAS, many cases of eating disorders go undetected. Less than one-
38 third of youth with eating disorders will receive treatment; and

39 WHEREAS, eating disorders experts have found that prompt and intensive
40 treatment significantly improves the chances of recovery. It is therefore
41 important for educators, medical providers, parents and community members
42 to be aware of the early warning signs and the symptoms of eating disorders;
43 and

1 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will encourage peo-
2 ple to share their stories and experiences with disordered eating and body-
3 image struggles; highlight the importance of screenings for the early detec-
4 tion of and intervention in eating disorders; and destroy myths and present
5 eating disorders as a public health issue that affects all kinds of people,
6 regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size or background; and

7 WHEREAS, the recognition of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week
8 performs the vital function of promoting public and media attention to the
9 seriousness of eating disorders and improving education about their biolog-
10 ical and environmental causes, as well as helping those who are struggling
11 with these debilitating diseases.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
13 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
14 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature hereby recognizes the
15 week of February 26 through March 4, 2018, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week
16 in the State of Idaho.