

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING THE LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY EACH YEAR AS EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK IN THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK.

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

WHEREAS, eating disorders are shrouded in stigma, secrecy, and stereotypes, and the goal of the National Eating Disorders Awareness Week campaign is to shine a light on these deadly illnesses, dispel misinformation, and connect people with the support they need to recover; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders are serious conditions that are potentially life-threatening and have a great impact on both a person's physical and emotional health. Too often, signs and symptoms are overlooked, and 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; and

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

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

WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is a collaborative effort consisting primarily of volunteers, including eating disorder professionals, health care 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, 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 youth with eating disorders will receive treatment; and

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

WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week encourages people to share their stories and experiences of disordered eating and body-image struggles; highlights the importance of screenings for the early detection

1 of and intervention in eating disorders; and destroys myths and presents
2 eating disorders as a public health issue that affects all kinds of people,
3 regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size, or background; and

4 WHEREAS, the recognition of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week
5 performs the vital function of promoting public and media attention to the
6 seriousness of eating disorders, improving education about the biological
7 and environmental causes of eating disorders, and helping those who are
8 struggling with these debilitating diseases.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
10 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
11 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature hereby recognizes the
12 last week of February each year as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the
13 State of Idaho.