

SENATE No. 1760

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Richard J. Ross, (BY REQUEST)

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions recognizing February 26 through March 4, 2017 as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Melissa Kameron

SENATE No. 1760

By Mr. Ross (by request), a petition (accompanied by resolution, Senate, No. 1760) of Melissa Kameron for legislation to recognize February 26 through March 4, 2017 as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

Resolutions recognizing February 26 through March 4, 2017 as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing February 26 through March 4, 2017, as Eating Disorders
2 Awareness Week in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in conjunction with the observance of
3 National Eating Disorders Awareness Week; and

4 WHEREAS, The 2017 theme of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is “It’s
5 Time to Talk About It”, which will focus on busting myths, getting the facts about eating
6 disorders and encouraging everyone to get screened; and

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Eating Disorders usually appear in adolescence and are associated with
25 substantial psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse and suicide; they are
26 serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices; in fact, anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any
27 mental illness; and

28 WHEREAS, Many cases of eating disorders go undetected; less than one-third of youth
29 with eating disorders will receive treatment; and

30 WHEREAS, Eating disorders experts have found that prompt intensive treatment
31 significantly improves the chances of recovery; therefore, it is important for educators, medical
32 providers, parents, and community members to be aware of the warning signs and the symptoms
33 of eating disorders; and

34 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will highlight the importance of
35 screenings for the early detection and intervention of eating disorders and bust myths and present
36 eating disorders as a public health issue, with close connections to substance abuse, trauma,
37 obesity, and other mental health conditions, such as depressions, anxiety, and obsessive-
38 compulsive disorder (OCD); and

39 WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Legislature recognizes the vital work of National Eating
40 Disorders Awareness Week in promoting public and media attention to the seriousness of eating
41 disorders and for working to improve education about their biological and environmental causes,
42 as well as how to help those who are struggling with these debilitating diseases; now, therefore,
43 be it

44 RESOLVED, That the Massachusetts Legislature pause in its deliberations to
45 memorialize Governor Charlie Baker to proclaim February 26 to March 4, 2017, as Eating
46 Disorders Awareness Week in the State of Massachusetts; and be it further

47 RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The
48 Honorable Charlie Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and The National
49 Eating Disorders Association.