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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2018, AS "EATING DISORDERS  
AWARENESS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Michael J. McCaffrey

Date Introduced: February 07, 2018

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The week of February 26th through March 4th, 2018, marks the observance  
2 of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week; and

3 WHEREAS, The 2018 Theme of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is "Let's  
4 Get Real," and will focus on expanding the conversation around eating disorders to include the  
5 diverse perspectives of the millions of people affected. Eating disorders are shrouded in stigma,  
6 secrecy, and stereotypes, and the goal of this year's campaign is to shine a light on these deadly  
7 illnesses, dispel misinformation, and connect people with the support they need to recover; and

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

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

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

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

6           WHEREAS, Eating Disorders usually appear in adolescence and are associated with  
7 substantial psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide. They are  
8 serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices; in fact, anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any  
9 mental illness; and

10           WHEREAS, Many cases of eating disorders go undetected. Less than one-third of youth  
11 with eating disorders will receive treatment; and

12           WHEREAS, Eating disorders experts have found that prompt intensive treatment  
13 significantly improves the chances of recovery. Therefore, it is important for educators, medical  
14 providers, parents, and community members to be aware of the warning signs and the symptoms  
15 of eating disorders; and

16           WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will encourage people to share  
17 their stories and experiences with disordered eating and body image struggles. It also provides an  
18 opportunity to highlight the importance of screenings for the early detection and intervention of  
19 eating disorders, and bust myths and present eating disorders as a public health issue that affects  
20 all kinds of people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size, or background; now, therefore be it

21           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
22 hereby proclaims the week of February 26 through March 4, 2018, as "Eating Disorders  
23 Awareness Week" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

24           RESOLVED, That this Senate recognizes the vital work of National Eating Disorders  
25 Awareness Week in promoting public and media attention to the seriousness of eating disorders  
26 and for working to improve education about their biological and environmental causes, as well as  
27 how to help those who are struggling with these debilitating diseases; and be it further

28           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
29 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Gina Raimondo, Governor of the  
30 State of Rhode Island, The National Eating Disorders Association, Brown University's Project  
31 HEAL, and the Eating Disorder Program at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

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