

1 SJR44  
2 190759-1  
3 By Senator Allen  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 01-FEB-18

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2018, AS  
9 NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK.

10  
11 WHEREAS, the 2018 Theme of National Eating Disorders  
12 Awareness Week is "Let's Get Real" which will focus on  
13 expanding the conversation around eating disorders to include  
14 the diverse perspectives of millions of people affected;  
15 eating disorders are shrouded in stigma, secrecy, and  
16 stereotypes and the goal of the 2018 campaign is to shine a  
17 light on these deadly illnesses, dispel misinformation, and  
18 connect people with the support they need to recover; and

19 WHEREAS, eating disorders are serious conditions  
20 that are potentially life-threatening and have a great impact  
21 on a person's physical and emotional health, signs and  
22 symptoms are often overlooked, and many are unaware of the  
23 devastating mental and physical consequences of eating  
24 disorders, as well as the pressures, attitudes, and behaviors  
25 which shape them; and

26 WHEREAS, in the United States, 20 million women and  
27 10 million men suffer from clinically significant eating

1 disorders at some time in their lives; these disorders affect  
2 people across all backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa,  
3 bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorders; and

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

8 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is  
9 a collaborative effort of volunteers, including eating  
10 disorder professionals, health care providers, students,  
11 educators, social workers, and individuals committed to  
12 raising awareness of the dangers surrounding eating disorders  
13 and the need for early intervention and treatment access; and

14 WHEREAS, eating disorders usually appear in  
15 adolescence and are associated with substantial psychological  
16 problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide;  
17 eating disorders are serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices;  
18 anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, many cases of eating disorders go  
21 undetected, and less than one-third of youth with eating  
22 disorders actually receive treatment; and

23 WHEREAS, eating disorder experts have found that  
24 prompt intensive treatment significantly improves the chances  
25 of recovery; it is important for educators, medical providers,  
26 parents, and community members to be aware of the warning  
27 signs and the symptoms of eating disorders; and

1           WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week  
2 will encourage people to share their stories and experiences  
3 with disordered eating and body image struggles; and highlight  
4 the importance of screenings for the early detection and  
5 intervention of eating disorders; it will bust myths and  
6 present eating disorders as a public health issue that affects  
7 people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size, or  
8 background; and

9           WHEREAS, recognition of the vital work of National  
10 Eating Disorders Awareness Week in promoting public and media  
11 attention to the seriousness of eating disorders and working  
12 to improve education about their causes will help those who  
13 are struggling with these debilitating diseases; now  
14 therefore,

15           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF  
16 ALABAMA, That February 26 through March 4, 2018, is recognized  
17 as National Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
19 resolution be provided to the National Eating Disorders  
20 Association and the Alabama Department of Public Health.