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SENATE MEMORIAL 6

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

INTRODUCED BY  
Bill Tallman

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE FEBRUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 4,  
2018 "EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK" IN NEW MEXICO IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH THE OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS  
AWARENESS WEEK.

WHEREAS, the 2018 theme of national eating disorders  
awareness week is "Let's Get Real", which will focus on  
expanding the conversation around eating disorders to include  
the diverse perspectives of the millions of people affected;  
and

WHEREAS, eating disorders are shrouded in stigma, secrecy  
and stereotypes, and the goal of this year's 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  
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1 potentially life-threatening and have a great impact on both  
2 the physical and emotional health of a person; and

3 WHEREAS, too often, signs and symptoms are overlooked, and  
4 many individuals, families and communities are unaware of the  
5 devastating mental and physical consequences of eating  
6 disorders, as well as the pressures, attitudes and behaviors  
7 that shape them; and

8 WHEREAS, in the United States, twenty million women and  
9 ten million men suffer from clinically significant eating  
10 disorders at some time in their lives; and

11 WHEREAS, these disorders affect people from all  
12 backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and  
13 binge eating disorders; and

14 WHEREAS, the national eating disorders association strives  
15 to address the many misconceptions regarding eating disorders  
16 and to highlight the availability of resources for treatment  
17 and support; and

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

25 WHEREAS, eating disorders usually appear in adolescence

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1 and are associated with substantial psychological problems,  
2 including depression, substance abuse and suicide; and

3 WHEREAS, these disorders are serious illnesses, not  
4 lifestyle choices, and, in fact, anorexia has the highest  
5 mortality rate of any mental illness; and

6 WHEREAS, many cases of eating disorders go undetected and  
7 less than one-third of young people with eating disorders will  
8 receive treatment; and

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

14 WHEREAS, national eating disorders awareness week will  
15 encourage people to share their stories and experiences with  
16 disordered eating and body image struggles, highlight the  
17 importance of screenings for the early detection and  
18 intervention of eating disorders, dispel myths and present  
19 eating disorders as a public health issue that affects all  
20 kinds of people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size or  
21 background; and

22 WHEREAS, the vital work of national eating disorders  
23 awareness week is recognized in promoting public and media  
24 attention to the seriousness of eating disorders and for  
25 working to improve education about their biological and

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1 environmental causes, as well as how to help those who are  
2 struggling with these debilitating diseases;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
4 OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to declare  
5 February 26 to March 4, 2018 "Eating Disorders Awareness Week"  
6 in New Mexico in conjunction with the observance of national  
7 eating disorders awareness week; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the governor and the chair of the board of  
10 directors of the national eating disorders association.