

1 A MEMORIAL

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

6
7 WHEREAS, the 2018 theme of national eating disorders
8 awareness week is "Let's Get Real", which will focus on
9 expanding the conversation around eating disorders to include
10 the diverse perspectives of the millions of people affected;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, eating disorders are shrouded in stigma,
13 secrecy and stereotypes, and the goal of this year's campaign
14 is to shine a light on these deadly illnesses, dispel
15 misinformation and connect people with the support they need
16 to recover; and

17 WHEREAS, eating disorders are serious conditions that
18 are potentially life-threatening and have a great impact on
19 both the physical and emotional health of a person; and

20 WHEREAS, too often, signs and symptoms are overlooked,
21 and many individuals, families and communities are unaware of
22 the devastating mental and physical consequences of eating
23 disorders, as well as the pressures, attitudes and behaviors
24 that shape them; and

25 WHEREAS, in the United States, twenty million women and

1 ten million men suffer from clinically significant eating
2 disorders at some time in their lives; and

3 WHEREAS, these disorders affect people from all
4 backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and
5 binge eating disorders; and

6 WHEREAS, the national eating disorders association
7 strives to address the many misconceptions regarding eating
8 disorders and to highlight the availability of resources for
9 treatment and support; and

10 WHEREAS, national eating disorders awareness week is a
11 collaborative effort consisting primarily of volunteers,
12 including eating disorder professionals, health care
13 providers, students, educators, social workers and
14 individuals committed to raising awareness of the dangers
15 surrounding eating disorders and the need for early
16 intervention and access to treatment; and

17 WHEREAS, eating disorders usually appear in adolescence
18 and are associated with substantial psychological problems,
19 including depression, substance abuse and suicide; and

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

23 WHEREAS, many cases of eating disorders go undetected
24 and less than one-third of young people with eating disorders
25 will receive treatment; and

1 WHEREAS, eating disorders experts have found that
2 prompt, intensive treatment significantly improves the
3 chances of recovery; therefore, it is important for
4 educators, medical providers, parents and community members
5 to be aware of the warning signs and symptoms of eating
6 disorders; and

7 WHEREAS, national eating disorders awareness week will
8 encourage people to share their stories and experiences with
9 disordered eating and body image struggles, highlight the
10 importance of screenings for the early detection and
11 intervention of eating disorders, dispel myths and present
12 eating disorders as a public health issue that affects all
13 kinds of people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size
14 or background; and

15 WHEREAS, the vital work of national eating disorders
16 awareness week is recognized in promoting public and media
17 attention to the seriousness of eating disorders and for
18 working to improve education about their biological and
19 environmental causes, as well as how to help those who are
20 struggling with these debilitating diseases;

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

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

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