

1 SR38
2 181729-1
3 By Senators Allen, Albritton, Beasley, Blackwell, Brewbaker,
4 Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman-Madison, Dial, Dunn, Figures,
5 Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston, Marsh,
6 McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford,
7 Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 28-FEB-17

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8 RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 26 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2017, AS
9 EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK.

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11 WHEREAS, the 2017 Theme of National Eating Disorders
12 Awareness Week is "It's Time to Talk About It"; the week will
13 focus on busting myths and presenting facts about eating
14 disorders to encourage everyone to get screened; and

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

22 WHEREAS, in the United States, 20 million women and
23 10 million men suffer from clinically significant eating
24 disorders at some time in their life; these disorders affect
25 people across all backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa,
26 bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorders; and

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, many cases of eating disorders go
18 undetected, and less than one-third of youth with eating
19 disorders actually receive treatment; and

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

25 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week
26 will highlight the importance of screenings for the early
27 detection and intervention of eating disorders; it will bust

1 myths and present eating disorders as a public health issue
2 with close connections to substance abuse, trauma, obesity,
3 and other mental health conditions, such as depression,
4 anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive disorder; and

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

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF
12 ALABAMA, That February 26 through March 4, 2017, is recognized
13 as National Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

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