



2015 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 121

March 11, 2016 - Introduced by Representatives C. TAYLOR, WACHS, KAHL, GOYKE, ZEPNICK, SPREITZER and BERCEAU, cosponsored by Senators L. TAYLOR, VINEHOUT and RINGHAND. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming February 21, 2016, to February 27, 2016, as Eating
2 Disorders Awareness Week in Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is observed annually
4 from February 21 to February 27; and

5 Whereas, the 2016 theme of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is “3
6 Minutes Can Save a Life,” which will focus on the life-saving benefits of early
7 detection and intervention; and

8 Whereas, eating disorders are serious conditions that are potentially
9 life-threatening and have a great impact on both a person’s physical and emotional
10 health; and

11 Whereas, too often, signs and symptoms are overlooked, and many individuals,
12 families, and communities are unaware of the devastating mental and physical
13 consequences of eating disorders, as well as the pressures, attitudes, and behaviors
14 that shape them; and

1 Whereas, in the United States, 20 million women and 10 million men suffer
2 from clinically significant eating disorders at some time in their life; and

3 Whereas, these disorders affect people across all backgrounds and include
4 anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorders; and

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

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

13 Whereas, eating disorders usually appear in adolescence and are associated
14 with substantial psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse,
15 and suicide; and

16 Whereas, eating disorders are serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices, and, in
17 fact, anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness; and

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

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

1 Whereas, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will highlight the
2 importance of screenings for the early detection and intervention of eating disorders;
3 and

4 Whereas, intervening during the early stages of development can significantly
5 increase the likelihood of preventing the onset of a full-blown eating disorder and
6 leads to greater chances of a full recovery; and

7 Whereas, the legislature recognizes the vital work of National Eating Disorders
8 Awareness Week in promoting public and media attention to the seriousness of
9 eating disorders and for working to improve education about their biological and
10 environmental causes, as well as how to help those who are struggling with these
11 debilitating diseases; now, therefore, be it

12 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature
13 proclaims February 21, 2016, to February 27, 2016, as Eating Disorders Awareness
14 Week in Wisconsin; and, be it further

15 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution
16 to the governor of the state of Wisconsin and the National Eating Disorders
17 Association.

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(END)