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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The theme of the 2017 National Eating Disorders  
3 Awareness Week is, "It's Time to Talk About It", which will  
4 focus on busting myths and getting out the facts about eating  
5 disorders and encourage everyone to get screened; and

6           WHEREAS, Eating disorders are serious conditions that are  
7 potentially life-threatening and have a great impact on both a  
8 person's physical and emotional health; too often, signs and  
9 symptoms are overlooked, and many individuals, families, and  
10 communities are unaware of the devastating mental and physical  
11 consequences of eating disorders, as well as the pressures,  
12 attitudes, and behaviors which shape them; and

13           WHEREAS, In the United States, 20 million women and 10  
14 million men suffer from clinically significant eating  
15 disorders at some time in their lives; these disorders affect  
16 people across all backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa,  
17 bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorders; and

18           WHEREAS, The National Eating Disorders Association strives  
19 to address the many misconceptions regarding eating disorders,  
20 and to highlight the availability of resources for treatment  
21 and support; and

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

8           WHEREAS, Eating disorders usually appear in adolescence  
9 and are associated with substantial psychological problems,  
10 including depression, substance abuse, and suicide; they are  
11 serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices; in fact, anorexia has  
12 the highest mortality rate of any mental illness; and

13           WHEREAS, Many cases of eating disorders go undetected; less  
14 than one-third of youth with eating disorders will receive  
15 treatment; and

16           WHEREAS, Eating disorder experts have found that prompt  
17 intensive treatment significantly improves the chances of  
18 recovery; therefore, it is important for educators, medical  
19 providers, parents, and community members to be aware of the  
20 warning signs and the symptoms of eating disorders; and

21           WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will  
22 highlight the importance of screenings for the early detection

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

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

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
13 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
14 declare the week of February 26 to March 4, 2017 as Eating  
15 Disorders Awareness Week in the State of Illinois; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to the National Eating Disorders Association.