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SCR-83 Eating Disorders Awareness Week. (2019-2020)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 83

CHAPTER 13

Relative to Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State March 17, 2020.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 83, Dodd. Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

This measure would designate the week of February 24, 2020, to March 1, 2020, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, The 2020 theme of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is "Come as You Are: Hindsight is 20/20," and will focus on inclusivity in the greater eating disorders community and unifying the field of eating disorders. Eating disorders are shrouded in stigma, secrecy, and stereotypes, and the goal of this year's campaign is to reflect on the positive steps the greater eating disorders community has taken — including those stemming from setbacks or challenges — toward accepting themselves and others; and

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

WHEREAS, In the United States, 20 million women and 10 million men suffer from clinically significant eating disorders at some time in their life. These disorders affect people across all backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorders; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will encourage people to share their stories and experiences with eating disorders and body image struggles, highlight the importance of screenings for the early detection and intervention of eating disorders, and refute myths and present eating disorders as a public health issue that affects all kinds of people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size, or background; and

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

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims the week of February 24, 2020, to March 1, 2020, inclusive, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the State of California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.