

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 28

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 63

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 28—Relative to Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 2, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 28, Ma. Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

This measure would recognize the weeks of February 22 through February 28, 2009, and February 21 through February 27, 2010, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week and would encourage citizens and policymakers to learn more about eating disorders and the obstacles to treatment, and to help people overcome and prevent these life-threatening diseases.

WHEREAS, Ten million women and one million men across the country are battling illnesses such as anorexia and bulimia, and millions more are suffering from binge eating disorder; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 3.6 million women in California alone struggle with an eating disorder; and

WHEREAS, Anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive overeating are problems that are misunderstood, stigmatized, and undertreated; and

WHEREAS, Anorexia is the psychiatric disorder with the highest mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Anorexia is linked to an eighteenfold increase in the risk of death, with up to 20 percent of sufferers dying of malnutrition or dying by suicide; and

WHEREAS, Eating disorders are associated with substantial psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, Eating disorders can lead to major medical complications, including cardiac arrhythmia, cognitive impairment, certain cancers, osteoporosis, infertility, kidney failure, and death; and

WHEREAS, Eating disorders affect persons of every race, color, gender, and socioeconomic category; and

WHEREAS, Eating disorders are increasing among people in younger age groups and affect children as young as seven years of age; and

WHEREAS, Media pressures and genetic, social, and familial factors are all known to be related to eating disorders; and

WHEREAS, Some physicians prematurely discharge patients with anorexia nervosa due to limited opportunities to obtain reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, Coverage and reimbursement for eating disorders differ among various private and public health care coverage options; and

WHEREAS, Eating disorders are treatable when diagnosed early and treated sufficiently; and

WHEREAS, Eating disorders have become a significant public health concern that should be treated no less seriously than obesity; and

WHEREAS, The government should take a proactive role in developing preventive education, improving access to care for all forms of eating disorders, including binge eating and extreme dieting; and

WHEREAS, The California Legislature is concerned with preserving and protecting the health of the state's citizens; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes the weeks of February 22 through February 28, 2009, and February 21 through February 27, 2010, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week, and encourages citizens and policymakers to learn more about eating disorders and the obstacles to treatment, and to help people overcome and prevent these life-threatening diseases; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.