

By: Representative Dotson

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE  
PREVALENCE OF EATING DISORDERS AND SUPPORTING THE  
EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC ON EATING DISORDERS.

### Subtitle

RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO RAISE AWARENESS  
OF THE PREVALENCE OF EATING DISORDERS AND  
SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC ON  
EATING DISORDERS.

WHEREAS, the 2018 theme of the National Eating Disorders Awareness Week was "Let's Get Real", and focused on expanding the conversation around eating disorders to include the diverse perspectives of the millions of people affected; and

WHEREAS, as eating disorders are shrouded in stigma, secrecy, and stereotypes, the goal of this year's campaign was to shine a light on these deadly illnesses, dispel misinformation, and connect people with the support they need to recover; 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; and

WHEREAS, 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, twenty million (20,000,000) women and ten million (10,000,000) men suffer from clinically significant eating disorders at some time in their lives; and

WHEREAS, eating 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 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 disorder professionals, healthcare 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 are usually diagnosed in adolescence and can be accompanied by other substantial psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders are serious illnesses, and not lifestyle choices; and

WHEREAS, 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 disorder experts have found that prompt intensive treatment significantly improves the chances of recovery; and

WHEREAS, it is critical for educators, medical providers, parents, and

community members to be aware of the warning signs and symptoms of eating disorders; and

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

WHEREAS, the National Eating Disorders Association plays an important role 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 providing information on how to help individuals who are struggling with these deadly illnesses,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize the importance of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week in raising awareness of the prevalence of eating disorders across the nation and support educating people about these illnesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy shall be provided to Dr. Angela Mensah by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.