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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE EATING DISORDER ACTION WEEK AS A TIME TO  
RAISE AWARENESS, PROMOTE EDUCATION, AND ENCOURAGE  
EARLY INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT FOR EATING  
DISORDERS.

### Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE EATING DISORDER ACTION WEEK  
AS A TIME TO RAISE AWARENESS, PROMOTE  
EDUCATION, AND ENCOURAGE EARLY  
INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT FOR EATING  
DISORDERS.

WHEREAS, eating disorders affect approximately nine percent (9%) of the population of the United States, equating to twenty-eight million, eight hundred thousand (28,800,000) citizens; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness, with one (1) person dying every fifty-two (52) minutes as a direct consequence of an eating disorder; and

WHEREAS, women experience eating disorders at more than two (2) times the rate of men, with lifetime prevalence rates estimated at eight and six-tenths percent (8.6%) for women compared to four and seven-hundredths percent (4.07%) for men; and

WHEREAS, individuals from marginalized communities, military personnel, athletes, and men face unique challenges in diagnosis, treatment, and access



to care for eating disorders; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders show significant links with other mental health conditions including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorders, with a high prevalence of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts among those affected; and

WHEREAS, young people, including teenagers and college students, are particularly vulnerable to developing disordered eating behaviors, with risk factors such as dieting, body dissatisfaction, and societal pressures contributing to the rise in cases; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders have a substantial economic and public health impact, with Arkansas ranking thirteenth in the nation for eating disorder prevalence and incurring an estimated forty-two million, four hundred thousand dollars (\$42,400,000) in related healthcare costs annually; and

*WHEREAS, in 2021, Arkansas hospitals recorded five hundred sixteen (516) inpatient admissions and one hundred forty (140) emergency department visits where an eating disorder was diagnosed, and more than four thousand five hundred (4,500) Arkansans had nearly thirty thousand (30,000) insurance claims related to an eating disorder diagnosis,*

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT Eating Disorder Action Week be recognized as a time to raise awareness, promote education, and encourage early intervention and treatment for eating disorders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT medical professionals, educators, policymakers, and community organizations work collaboratively to improve access to treatment, reduce stigma, and provide comprehensive support for individuals affected by eating disorders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT local, state, and national leaders take proactive steps to implement policies and allocate resources that address the growing prevalence of eating disorders, ensuring that all individuals, especially women, who are disproportionately affected, receive the care and support they need.

*/s/D. Garner*