

2011 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 322

Offered January 12, 2011

Prefiled January 10, 2011

Designating the last full week in February, in 2011 and in each succeeding year, as Eating Disorder Awareness Week in Virginia.

Patrons—McEachin; Delegate: Hope

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, eating disorders include anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder, and eating disorder not otherwise specified; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders affect approximately 11 million Americans and affect people from all backgrounds, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, and socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders are becoming more prevalent at younger ages, including in children as young as seven years old; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders have been stigmatized and not treated as the serious, sometimes fatal, illnesses they are; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders affect every system of the body and are associated with serious medical complications including cardiac arrhythmia, cognitive impairment, osteoporosis, infertility, heart failure, and death; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders have the highest mortality rate, upwards of 20 percent, of any mental illness; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders are treatable with appropriate referrals and fair coverage for treatment; less than half of all people with eating disorders receive the treatment they both need and deserve; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders research is grossly underfunded, thus stalling program development and the general public's knowledge of eating disorders; and

WHEREAS, education of eating disorders, to health care professionals and the general public, is lacking; eating disorders are all too often undiagnosed or misdiagnosed by health professionals; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, National Eating Disorder Awareness Week will be observed during the last full week of February, the 20th through the 26th; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly designate the last full week in February, in 2011 and in each succeeding year, as Eating Disorder Awareness Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate post the designation of this week on the General Assembly's website.

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