

House Resolution 1029

By: Representatives Drenner of the 57th and Gardner of the 42nd, Post 3

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing National Eating Disorders Awareness Week and urging the Division of Public
2 Health of the Department of Human Resources to undertake certain related studies; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive overeating are problems which are
5 misunderstood, stigmatized, underfunded and undertreated; and

6 WHEREAS, estimates are that 8 million Americans suffer from eating disorders; and

7 WHEREAS, anorexia is linked to an 18-fold increase in the risk of death, with up to 20
8 percent of sufferers dying of malnutrition and suicide, this is also the psychiatric disorder
9 with the highest mortality rate; and

10 WHEREAS, eating disorders are associated with substantial psychological problems,
11 including depression, substance abuse, and suicide, and can lead to major medical
12 complications, including: cardiac arrhythmia; cognitive impairment; certain cancers;
13 osteoporosis; infertility; and, most seriously, death; and

14 WHEREAS, our "best and brightest girls" are the most vulnerable with 90 percent of
15 sufferers adolescents and young women; and

16 WHEREAS, eating disorders cut across race, color, gender, and socioeconomic categories;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, eating disorders are increasing in younger age groups with children as young
19 as seven years old suffering; and

1 WHEREAS, 40-60 percent of high school girls diet, 13 percent of high school girls purge,
2 30-40 percent of junior high girls worry about weight, and 40 percent of nine year old girls
3 have dieted; and

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

6 WHEREAS, there is little federal funding for eating disorder education and research on
7 eating disorders, with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) allocating only
8 1 percent of its overall research budget for eating disorders in 1997 and a percentage of this
9 money supporting research on obesity and diabetes; and

10 WHEREAS, many insurance companies disallow or limit reimbursements for eating
11 disorders, forcing doctors to discharge patients with anorexia nervosa too early, placing
12 patients in life-threatening situations; and

13 WHEREAS, early intervention is crucial and Atlanta has one of the few organizations
14 dedicated to early detection, education, and prevention through the Eating Disorders
15 Information Network's School Outreach Program; and

16 WHEREAS, eating disorders should be treated as the public health crisis it has become and
17 government should take a proactive role in prevention education and making access to
18 treatment available for those already suffering with eating disorders; and

19 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives is concerned with preserving and protecting the
20 health of the citizens of Georgia.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
22 the members of this body recognize February 21-29, 2004, as National Eating Disorders
23 Awareness Week, so deemed by the Eating Disorders Information Network as "Listen to
24 Your Body Week."

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
26 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Division of Public
27 Health of the Department of Human Resources.