

House Resolution 443

By: Representative Dollar of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 26, 2017, through March 4, 2017, as Eating Disorders Awareness
2 Week in the State of Georgia in conjunction with the observance of National Eating
3 Disorders Awareness Week; and

4 WHEREAS, the 2017 Theme of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is "It's Time
5 to Talk About It," which will focus on busting myths, getting the facts about eating disorders,
6 and encouraging everyone to get screened; and

7 WHEREAS, eating disorders are serious conditions that are potentially life-threatening and
8 have a great impact on both a person's physical and emotional health; too often, signs and
9 symptoms are overlooked, and many individuals, families, and communities are unaware of
10 the devastating mental and physical consequences of eating disorders, as well as the
11 pressures, attitudes, and behaviors which shape them; and

12 WHEREAS, in the United States, 20 million women and 10 million men suffer from
13 clinically significant eating disorders at some time in their life; these disorders affect people
14 across all backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating
15 disorders; and

16 WHEREAS, The National Eating Disorders Association strives to address the many
17 misconceptions regarding eating disorders and to highlight the availability of resources for
18 treatment and support; and

19 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is a collaborative effort consisting
20 primarily of volunteers, including eating disorder professionals, health care providers,
21 students, educators, social workers, and individuals, committed to raising awareness of the
22 dangers surrounding eating disorders and the need for early intervention and treatment
23 access; and

24 WHEREAS, eating disorders usually appear in adolescence, are associated with substantial
25 psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide and are serious
26 illnesses, not lifestyle choices; in fact, anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental
27 illness; and

28 WHEREAS, many cases of eating disorders go undetected; less than one-third of youth with
29 eating disorders will receive treatment; and

30 WHEREAS, eating disorders experts have found that prompt intensive treatment
31 significantly improves the chances of recovery; therefore, it is important for educators,
32 medical providers, parents, and community members to be aware of the warning signs and
33 the symptoms of eating disorders; and

34 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will highlight the importance of
35 screenings for the early detection and intervention of eating disorders and bust myths and
36 present eating disorders as a public health issue, with close connections to substance abuse,
37 trauma, obesity, and other mental health conditions, such as depression, anxiety, and
38 obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD); and

39 WHEREAS, this legislative body recognizes the vital work of National Eating Disorders
40 Awareness Week in promoting public and media attention to the seriousness of eating
41 disorders and for working to improve education about their biological and environmental
42 causes, as well as how to help those who are struggling with these debilitating diseases.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body recognize February 26, 2017 through March 4, 2017, as Eating
45 Disorders Awareness Week in the State of Georgia.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
47 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to The
48 National Eating Disorders Association and The Diana Jodel Foundation.