

House Resolution 1077

By: Representatives Gardner of the 57th, Lott of the 122nd, Price of the 48th, Schofield of the 60th, Bennett of the 94th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 26–March 4, 2018, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week at the state
2 capitol in conjunction with National Eating Disorders Awareness Week; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the 2018 theme of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is "Let's Get
5 Real," and the campaign will focus on expanding the conversation around eating disorders
6 to include the diverse perspectives of the millions of people affected. Eating disorders are
7 shrouded in stigma, secrecy, and stereotypes, and the goal of the awareness week is to shine
8 a light on these deadly illnesses, dispel misinformation, and connect people with the support
9 they need to recover; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, the National Eating Disorders Association strives to address the many
20 misconceptions regarding eating disorders and to highlight the availability of resources for
21 treatment and support; and

22 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is a collaborative effort consisting
23 primarily of volunteers, including eating disorder professionals, health care providers,
24 students, educators, psychologists, social workers, and individuals committed to raising

25 awareness of the dangers surrounding eating disorders and the need for early intervention and
26 treatment access; and

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

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

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

37 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will encourage people to share
38 their stories and experiences with disordered eating and body image struggles; highlight the
39 importance of screenings for the early detection and intervention of eating disorders; bust
40 myths and present eating disorders as a public health issue affecting all kinds of people,
41 regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size, or background; and

42 WHEREAS, this legislative body recognizes the vital work of National Eating Disorders
43 Awareness Week in directing public and media attention to the seriousness of eating
44 disorders and for working to improve education about their biological and environmental
45 causes, as well as teaching the public how to help individuals who are struggling with these
46 debilitating diseases.

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
48 the members of this body recognize February 26–March 4, 2018, as Eating Disorders
49 Awareness Week at the state capitol.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
51 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
52 Governor Nathan Deal, the National Eating Disorders Association, the public, and the press.