

## 2013-J3617

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 23 - March 1, 2014, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks that are set aside to increase awareness of serious illnesses that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 23 - March 1, 2014, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, NEDAwareness Week is a collective effort of primary volunteers, including eating disorder professionals, health care providers, students, educators, social workers, and individuals committed to raising awareness of the dangers surrounding eating disorders and the need for early intervention and treatment; and

WHEREAS, The 2014 theme of NEDAwareness Week is "I Had No Idea"; the National Eating Disorders Association seeks to stress the need to address eating disorder misconceptions, and to highlight the availability of resources for treatment and support; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals, families, and communities are unaware of the often devastating mental and physical consequences of eating disorders, and of the pressures, attitudes and behaviors that shape them; and

WHEREAS, Concerned individuals are asked to talk with others during NEDAwareness Week, in hopes that their participation will raise awareness that eating disorders are serious illness, provide accurate information to the medical, educational and business communities, direct people to potentially life-saving information and resources about eating

disorders; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, 20 million women and 10 million men suffer from a clinically significant eating disorder at some time in their life, including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder, or an eating disorder not otherwise specified; and

WHEREAS, The scope and severity of eating disorders are often misunderstood; eating disorders are serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices; in fact, anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness; in a national survey, four out of 10 people reported they either suffered or have known someone who has suffered from an eating disorder; and

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

WHEREAS, Eating disorders impact every organ in the body, including cognition, and can lead to organ failure and other chronic health complications; and

WHEREAS, Eating disorders are one of the most common psychiatric diagnoses in young women, and have the highest death rates of any mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, Eating disorders usually appear in adolescence and are associated with substantial psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse and suicide; these disorders can have a negative impact on all aspects of life, and educational efforts to prevent eating disorders are of primary importance; and

WHEREAS, Eating Disorders Awareness Week will highlight the fact that body size and shape are strongly influenced by biological factors, such as genetics, while also calling attention to some of the new discoveries surrounding the role of genetics in the development of eating disorders;

and

WHEREAS, In 2004 New York State took a leading role in the fight against eating disorders by establishing an integrated network of Comprehensive Care Centers for Eating Disorders around the state which provide evidence-based care; this Legislative Body recognizes the important work of these three Centers; and

WHEREAS, Many New Yorkers have been diagnosed with this disease; this Legislative Body recognizes the vital importance of the National Eating Disorders Association, which calls New York State its home, in providing excellence in care through awareness, education and treatment, and its evident commitment to this mission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 23 - March 1, 2014, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; the National Eating Disorders Association; and the Northeastern, Metropolitan and Western New York Comprehensive Care Centers for Eating Disorders.