

1 A RESOLUTION declaring the week of February 24, 2020, to March 1, 2020, as
2 National Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, the 2020 theme of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is
4 "Come as You Are: Hindsight is 20/20," and will focus on inclusivity in the greater eating
5 disorder community and unifying the field of eating disorders. Eating disorders are
6 shrouded in stigma, secrecy, and stereotypes, and the goal of this year's campaign is to
7 reflect on the positive steps the greater eating disorder community has taken—including
8 those stemming from setbacks or challenges—toward accepting themselves and others;
9 and

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, eating disorders usually appear in adolescence and are associated with

1 substantial psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide.
2 Eating disorders are serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices. In fact, anorexia has the
3 highest mortality rate of any mental illness; and

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

6 WHEREAS, eating disorders experts have found that prompt intensive treatment
7 significantly improves the chances of recovery. Therefore, it is important for educators,
8 medical providers, parents, and community members to be aware of the warning signs
9 and symptoms of eating disorders; and

10 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will encourage people to
11 share their stories and experiences with eating disorders and body image struggles,
12 highlight the importance of screenings for the early detection and intervention of eating
13 disorders, and bust myths and present eating disorders as a public health issue that affects
14 all kinds of people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, size, or background; and

15 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky recognizes the vital work of National
16 Eating Disorders Awareness Week in promoting public and media attention to the
17 seriousness of eating disorders and for working to improve education about their
18 biological and environmental causes, as well as how to help those who are struggling with
19 these debilitating diseases;

20 NOW, THEREFORE,

21 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
22 ***Kentucky:***

23 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby declares the week of February 24, 2020, to March
24 1, 2020, as National Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the Commonwealth of
25 Kentucky.

26 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
27 Resolution to Senator Ralph Alvarado for delivery.