

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing the week of February 26 to March 3, 2024, as Eating
2 Disorders Awareness Week in Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, the 2024 theme of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is
4 "Strength through Experience and Knowledge," and focuses on lived experiences and
5 eating disorder education, which are essential catalysts for awareness and change; and

6 WHEREAS, eating disorders are serious conditions that can be life-threatening and
7 have a great impact on a person's physical and emotional health; and

8 WHEREAS, signs and symptoms are often overlooked, and many individuals,
9 families, and communities are unaware of the devastating mental and physical
10 consequences of eating disorders, as well as the pressures, attitudes, and behaviors that
11 shape them; and

12 WHEREAS, 28.8 million Americans will have an eating disorder in their lifetime,
13 and over 900,000 individuals in Kentucky are currently diagnosed with an eating
14 disorder, including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorder; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, eating disorders are associated with substantial psychological
23 problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide, and have the second
24 highest mortality rate of all mental health disorders; and

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

27 WHEREAS, eating disorder experts have found that prompt, intensive treatment

1 significantly improves the chances of recovery; therefore, it is important for educators,
2 medical providers, parents, and community members to be aware of the warning signs
3 and the symptoms of eating disorders; and

4 WHEREAS, National Eating Disorders Awareness Week will encourage people to
5 share their stories and experiences with eating disorders, highlight the importance of
6 screenings for early detection and intervention of eating disorders, dispel myths about
7 eating disorders, and present eating disorders as a public health issue that affects all
8 people; and

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

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

15 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
16 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

17 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives recognizes February 26 to March 3,
18 2024, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

19 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
20 copy of this Resolution to Representative Ken Fleming.