

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 27 TO MARCH  
5, 2023 AS EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, eating disorders are serious but treatable mental and physical illnesses that can affect people of all genders, ages, races, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations, body shapes and weights; and

**WHEREAS**, while no one knows for sure what causes eating disorders, a growing consensus suggests that it is a range of biological, psychological and sociocultural factors; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, 9% of people will experience an eating disorder at some point in their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, eating disorders have the 2nd highest mortality rate of all mental health disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Eating Disorders Association helpline has experienced a 107% increase in contacts since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Eating Disorders Awareness Week is a collective effort of individuals from every walk of life, including persons with lived experience, family members and friends; students, educators and coaches; and professionals, health care providers and organizations committed to raising awareness of eating disorders; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize February 27 to March 5, 2023 as Eating Disorders Awareness Week and encourage the citizens of Maine to support the annual awareness campaign to educate the public about the realities of eating disorders and to provide hope, support and visibility to individuals and families affected by eating disorders.