

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17—Senators Wiener, Rawson, Mathews,
Amodei, Titus, Care, McGinness, Neal, O’Connell, Schneider,
Townsend and Washington

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging the Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services in cooperation with the Department of Education, the University and Community College System of Nevada and local school districts to take the steps necessary to increase public awareness of certain eating disorders and inspire public support for the inclusion of eating disorders in the insurance benefits mandated for mental health coverage.

WHEREAS, Each year millions of people in the United States are affected by serious and sometimes life-threatening eating disorders such as compulsive or binge eating that may result in obesity, anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa that cause immeasurable suffering for victims and their families; and

WHEREAS, Research suggests that, conservatively, at least 1 percent of female adolescents have anorexia, with cases occurring in children as young as 6 years of age, at least 4 percent of college-aged women have bulimia, and, while the percentage is significantly lower among males, cases of eating disorders among young males are being reported with increasing frequency; and

WHEREAS, A study reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that 61 percent of adults in the United States are overweight, of which 26 percent are considered obese; and

WHEREAS, Without early treatment, eating disorders can lead to physiological damage, some of which is irreversible, including irregular heartbeat, kidney and liver damage, destruction of teeth, infertility, a weakened immune system, anemia, malnutrition, loss of bone mass and increased risk of certain cancers, diabetes and arthritis; and

WHEREAS, Eating disorders of this kind are treatable, particularly if they are detected early, treated by trained therapists and supplemented by support groups; and

WHEREAS, Treatment for such eating disorders, especially in advanced cases, can be expensive as many victims require extensive medical monitoring, with therapy generally extending over two or more years and the possibility of inpatient treatment that can cost more than \$30,000 a month; and

WHEREAS, Although these eating disorders occur in persons of all ages, backgrounds and body size, because these disorders primarily affect young people in their teens and twenties, educational programs should focus on adolescent groups and the parents, teachers and school counselors of adolescents to maximize preventive efforts; and

WHEREAS, The devastating personal and social effects of eating disorders can be alleviated by increased dissemination of information that includes the nutritional requirements of persons in various age groups, the dangers associated with certain patterns of eating, the recognition of both the physical and psychological symptoms of eating disorders and the importance of early treatment of these disorders to prevent serious consequences; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services in cooperation with the Department of Education, the University and Community College System of Nevada and local school districts is urged to direct the development of educational programs and materials relating to eating disorders such as compulsive or binge eating, anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa for use in schools and colleges in Nevada and for general distribution throughout the State of Nevada to increase awareness of eating disorders; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services include as a part of those educational materials sufficient information that will inspire Nevadans to support legislation to include these eating disorders as part of the insurance benefits mandated for mental health coverage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Frances Brown, MSN, MEd, RN, Chairman of the Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services, to the Department of Education for transmittal to all public, private and charter schools, and to the Board of Regents for transmittal to the universities and community colleges of the University and Community College System of Nevada.