

Rep. Cox offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 254.

A resolution to declare February 26-March 4, 2018, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The 2018 theme of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is "It's Time to Talk About it," and will focus on expanding the conversation around eating disorders to include the diverse perspectives of the millions of people affected. Eating disorders are shrouded in stigma, secrecy, and stereotypes and the goal of this year's campaign is to shine a light on these deadly illnesses, dispel misinformation, and connect people with the support they need to recover; and

Whereas, Eating disorders are serious conditions that are potentially life-threatening and have a great impact on both a person's physical and emotional health. Too often, signs and symptoms are overlooked and many individuals, families, and communities are unaware of the devastating mental and physical consequences of eating disorders, as well as the pressures, attitudes, and behaviors which shape them. In the United States, 20 million women and 10 million men suffer from clinically significant eating disorders at some time in their life. These disorders affect people across all backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorders. The National Eating Disorders Association strives to address the many misconceptions regarding eating disorders, and to highlight the availability of resources for treatment and support. National Eating Disorders Awareness Week is a collaborative effort consisting primarily of 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 access; and

Whereas, Eating disorders usually appear in adolescence and are associated with substantial psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide. They are serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices. In fact, anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any mental illness. Many cases of eating disorders go undetected as less than one-third of youth with eating disorders will receive treatment; 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 the warning signs and the symptoms of eating disorders; and

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

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare February 26-March 4, 2018, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the state of Michigan. We recognize the vital work of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week in promoting public and media attention to the seriousness of eating disorders and for working to improve education about their biological and environmental causes, as well as how to help those who are struggling with these debilitating diseases.