

Sponsor Testimony
Senate Concurrent Resolution 19
Senate Bill 245
Health, Human Services and Medicaid
Chair, Senator Dave Burke
Tuesday, January 30th

Good afternoon, Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares and members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 19 and Senate Bill 245, designate eating disorder awareness week. SCR 19 would recognize eating disorder awareness week in Ohio, February 26-March 4, 2018. SB 245 would recognize eating disorder awareness week in statue, the week commencing on the last Monday in February.

According to the National Eating Disorders Association, national surveys estimate that 20 million women and 10 million men in America will have an eating disorder at some point in their lives¹. Eating disorders can begin during adolescence, but psychologists and doctors have found an increasing number of children and older adults diagnosed with these illnesses. The most common forms of eating disorders include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating.

This request comes from a constituent who currently works with the National Eating Disorders Association and provided additional statistics about eating disorders such as:

- They have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness
- They are the 3rd most common chronic illness among adolescents
- In girls, who are between 15 and 24, deaths due to eating disorders are twelve times higher than any other cause of death

SCR 19 would designate February 26th through March 4th, 2018 as ‘Eating Disorder Awareness’ week for Ohio. Dedicating a week to “Eating Disorders Awareness” will help support and educate those affected by these serious disorders.

Chairman Burke and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention and consideration of this important issue. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

1. <https://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/learn/general-information/what-are-eating-disorders>