



April 7, 2016

Assemblymember Marc Levine
California State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Room 2141
Sacramento, CA 94249

Executive Circle

Avalon Hills
Eating Recovery Center
The Emily Program
The Emily Program Foundation
Kantor & Kantor, LLP
Oliver-Pyatt Centers
Residential Eating Disorders Consortium
Veritas Collaborative

Policy Circle

Academy for Eating Disorders
The Renfrew Center

Leadership Circle

Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness
Gail R. Schoenbach FREED Foundation
Monte Nido Treatment Center
Reasons Eating Disorder Center
Remuda Ranch

Advocacy Circle

Binge Eating Disorder Association
Center for Change
International Association of Eating Disorder Professionals Foundation
Laureate Eating Disorders Program
Timberline Knolls

Support Circle

Cambridge Eating Disorder Center
Castlewood Treatment Centers
Center for Discovery
Eating Disorder Center of Denver
Eating Disorder Hope
Focus Treatment Centers
Inner Door Center
Mirasol Eating Disorder Recovery Centers
Multi-Services Eating Disorders Association
Park Nicollet Melrose Center
Rosewood Centers for Eating Disorders
Walden Behavioral Care
Wrobel & Smith, PLLP

Hope Circle

American Anorexia and Bulimia Association of Philadelphia
BingeBehavior.com
Casa Palmera
Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)
The Eating Disorders Center at Rogers Memorial Hospital
EDN of Maryland
FEAST
FINDINGbalance
Gurze Books
The International Federation of Eating Disorders Dietitians
McCallum Place Eating Disorder Centers
The National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Eating Disorders
PENED/Footsteps for Recovery
Theravive

Dear Assemblymember Levine:

The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy and Action would like to express our strong support for your recently introduced legislation, AB 2539, which addresses the problem of pressurized starvation and eating disorders in the fashion industry and aims to protect the health and well-being of professional models in California.

Eating disorders affect over 30 million Americans during their lifetimes and are not absent within the modeling profession. While modeling appears to be an alluring profession, eating disorders in this industry are a serious problem. Models, who are often minors, are frequently pressured to lose weight and can face dismissal from jobs if they are unable to do so. When misclassified as independent contractors, models lack the support, protection and access to healthcare that they would be entitled to if classified appropriately as employees of the brands they represent. As a result, many models have suffered from the serious and sometimes fatal effects of eating disorders and related health problems.

The fashion industry saturates our media with images that disseminate distorted and unhealthy weight, shape, and beauty ideals to girls and young women. The high number of youth engaging in unhealthy and dangerous behaviors in attempts to control their weight and shape, in addition to the well-documented health risks of eating disorders, emphasize the need for this legislation. AB 2539 will not only take a much needed step toward protecting the health and well-being of models, but also will change the messages girls and young women receive from the media about their appearances. For these reasons, we strongly support AB 2539 and congratulate you on the introduction of this groundbreaking legislation in California.

Sincerely,

Johanna Kandel
Board President
Eating Disorders Coalition