



September 20, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor of California  
c/o Camille Wagner, Legislative Affairs Secretary  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Eating Disorders Coalition Urges Support for AB 2338**

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, and Action (EDC), I am writing in support for Assembly Bill (AB) 2338, the Talent Protections Act, which will require the creation of and training on educational materials on sexual harassment prevention, retaliation, nutrition and eating disorders- including making educational materials available to their artists.

Eating disorders affect 30 million individuals in the United States, including 1.2 million Californians, of all ages, sizes, sexual orientations, ethnicities and socioeconomic status. Moreover, eating disorders have a very high mortality rate of all psychiatric illnesses, only second to that of opioids— with one person losing their life as a direct result of an eating disorder every 62 minutes. However, with the appropriate levels of care and a comprehensive team of professionals, eating disorders can be successfully treated.

Several studies have found a significant association between traumatic events and eating disorders. Studies have found that individuals with a current or lifetime eating disorder are more likely to report experiences of traumatic events, including events related to sexual harassment and assault.<sup>1</sup> By creating proactive requirements, we are establishing a system of accountability in the entertainment industry. This will provide for a workplace environment where the potential victims have been empowered with awareness of their rights and the resources necessary in cases of abuse.

At the EDC, we work to advance the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority by building relationships with Congress, federal agencies and organizations— we want to commend you for your support in this fight.

Thank you for your consideration in signing AB 2338 into law, and we hope with your support on this issue, you can become an even greater leader on behalf of all individuals and families who have been impacted by an eating disorder.

Sincerely,

Katrina Velasquez, Esq., M.A.  
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action

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<sup>1</sup> Forman-Hoffman, Valerie; Mengeling, Michelle; Booth, Brenda; Torner, James; Sadler, Anne. "Eating Disorders, Post-Traumatic Stress, and Sexual Trauma in Women Veterans." *Military Medicine*, vol. 177, 2012, pp. 1161-1168.

Champions Circle  
National Eating Disorders Association  
Residential Eating Disorders Consortium

Executive Circle  
Clementine  
Eating Recovery Center  
The Emily Program  
The Emily Program Foundation  
Kantor & Kantor, LLP  
Monte Nido  
Oliver-Pyatt Centers  
Veritas Collaborative

Policy Circle  
Academy for Eating Disorders  
The Renfrew Center

Leadership Circle  
Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness  
Gail R. Schoenbach FREED Foundation  
Reasons Eating Disorder Center  
Remuda Ranch

Advocacy Circle  
Center for Change  
International Association of Eating Disorders  
Professionals Foundation (iaedp)  
Laureate Eating Disorders Program  
Timberline Knolls

Support Circle  
Cambridge Eating Disorder Center  
Castlewood Treatment Center  
Center for Discovery  
The Center for Eating Disorders at Sheppard Pratt  
Eating Disorder Hope  
International Eating Disorder Action (IEDAction)  
Mirasol Eating Disorder Recovery Centers  
Mothers Against Eating Disorders (MAED)  
Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association  
Park Nicollet Melrose Center  
Rosewood Centers for Eating Disorders  
Walden Behavioral Care

Hope Circle  
Aloria Health  
Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa (EDCI)  
The Eating Disorder Foundation  
Eating Disorder Therapy LA  
FINDINGbalance  
International Federation of Eating Disorders Dietitians (IFEDD)  
La Ventana Treatment Programs  
Manna Scholarship Fund  
Moonshadow's Spirit  
The National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Eating Disorders  
Project HEAL  
Rogers Behavioral Health  
Stay Strong Virginia  
Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED)  
Wrobel & Smith, PLLP  
WVU Disordered Eating Center of Charleston