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.1 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

---