
HOUSE BILL 3291

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunshee, Dickerson, Quall, Upthegrove, Green, Hasegawa, Roberts and Morrell

Read first time 02/02/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to instructing students about eating disorders; and
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that as many as twenty-four million
7 people in the United States suffer from an eating disorder, and ninety-
8 five percent of those individuals are between the ages of twelve and
9 twenty-five. Even more disturbing is that anorexia is the third most
10 common chronic illness among adolescents, and more people die of eating
11 disorders than any other mental illness. Fortunately, eating disorders
12 are preventable and can be treated. However, early intervention is the
13 key to successful prevention and treatment. It is essential that
14 middle and junior high school children are taught the physical dangers
15 of eating disorders in order to dismiss the glamorization of being too
16 thin that occurs in the media. Including instruction about eating
17 disorders in the middle and junior high school classroom also
18 encourages teachers to become better educated and to recognize the

1 warning symptoms and appropriate intervention if a student shows early
2 signs of an eating disorder.

3 (2) All public middle and junior high schools in the state are
4 strongly encouraged to ensure that instruction is provided to students
5 in the health and fitness curriculum regarding identification of the
6 warning signs, behavioral patterns, and avenues of support for young
7 people with abnormal eating behaviors or eating disorders.

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