

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 773 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY PETRI, CLYMER, COHEN, EVERETT, FRANKEL, GEIST,
KOTIK, KULA, MELIO, MICOZZIE, MURT, REICHLEY, SCAVELLO, SEIP,
SIPTROTH, THOMAS, TRUE, VULAKOVICH, WATERS AND J. WHITE,
JUNE 4, 2008

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, JUNE 4, 2008

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study concerning the cost-benefit analysis of
3 increasing mental health coverage in specific regards to
4 eating disorders.

5 WHEREAS, According to the National Eating Disorders
6 Association, more than 11 million people in the United States
7 suffer from eating disorders; and

8 WHEREAS, An eating disorder is a mental disorder
9 characterized by a serious disturbance in eating behavior
10 through a reduction or increase of food intake, as well as
11 feelings of distress or extreme concern about body shape or
12 weight; and

13 WHEREAS, Eating disorders frequently occur with other
14 psychiatric disorders, such as depression and anxiety, and
15 sufferers can experience a wide range of physical health
16 complications, including heart conditions and kidney failure,
17 which can lead to death; and

1 WHEREAS, Up to 22% of persons diagnosed with an eating
2 disorder will die as a result of the eating disorder; and

3 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are treatable medical illnesses
4 requiring a comprehensive treatment plan involving medical care
5 and monitoring, psychosocial intervention, nutritional
6 counseling, medication management and possible hospitalization;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The average direct cost of treating eating disorders
9 is \$5 billion to \$6 billion per year in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the American Psychological Association,
11 data indicate that health insurers provide an average of ten to
12 15 sessions for treating people with eating disorders when at
13 least 40 sessions may be needed; and

14 WHEREAS, Managed care systems which implement parity result
15 in a less than 1% increase in health care costs; and

16 WHEREAS, It is estimated that parity would increase premiums
17 by only 1.4% to 1.6% and is thought that this estimate may still
18 be too high; and

19 WHEREAS, Mental health parity in conjunction with managed
20 care results in a 30% to 50% decrease in total mental health
21 costs; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
23 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of
24 the effect on health insurance policy premiums and the cost
25 benefit of enhanced mental health coverage to the treatment of
26 eating disorders; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
28 report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly
29 by November 30, 2008.