



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 13, 2010

Governor Signs Bill Establishing Missouri Eating Disorder Council

JEFFERSON CITY—The governor recently signed into law [Senate Bill 754](#), a bill containing provisions that Sen. David Pearce (R-Warrensburg) helped navigate through the legislative process during the 2010 session. Among other provisions, SB 754 creates the Missouri Eating Disorder Council, which was proposed in Sen. Pearce's [SB 744](#).

"Eating disorders can lead to tragic consequences without treatment for the thousands of Missourians suffering from them and their families," Sen. Pearce said. "By establishing a council with the very specific goal of promoting knowledge and awareness in our state on the seriousness of eating disorders, we will be able to reach out to those who need help. I'm grateful that this much-needed legislation was able to pass this year with the support of my colleagues and concerned Missourians, and that the governor signed it."

Specifically, SB 754 creates the Missouri Eating Disorder Council within the Department of Mental Health and gives the department director the authority to determine the number of members on the council, as well as select council members. The department, in collaboration with other state agencies and in consultation with the council, will develop and implement certain education and awareness programs concerning eating disorders.

Two individuals in particular were instrumental in getting the Missouri Eating Disorder Council passed in SB 754, Missouri Citizen Advocate Annie Seal and Warrensburg resident John Culp, who both testified in favor of Sen. Pearce's legislation.

"I'd like to thank Senator Pearce, Representatives Storch and Stream for their hard work on this important initiative," Seal said. "In this difficult economic time, I am proud our Missouri legislators have recognized the impact of eating disorders and established the Missouri Eating Disorder Council. The council will provide education and increase awareness around the state. This is a very serious, often deadly, much misunderstood disease that affects all socio-economic groups, genders and ages. Treatment is highly successful, but we have to understand, intervene and make treatment available if we are going to put an end to eating disorders."

"We were excited to see SB 754 signed by the governor," Culp said. "We hope with the work of the Eating Disorder Council that early awareness and education will help others learn the importance of getting help early. We do not want to see another family in Missouri have to bury their child because of this terrible disease. Our daughter fought this terrible disease for 13 years, and died from a heart attack on May 2, 2009. The bill is a start to helping the more than 250,000 people in Missouri with eating disorders."

Senate Bill 754 takes effect Aug. 28, 2010.

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