



The Missouri STAR Event February 4, 2009

The first-ever Eating Disorder event was held at the Missouri State Capitol building. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness for Eating Disorders and ask for legislative support of House Bill 519, the first Eating Disorder specific bill ever filed in Missouri. House Bill 519 will provide access to treatment for those afflicted with eating disorders by requiring fair insurance practices and compliance with the American Psychiatric Association's definition of Eating Disorders. Organizers were introduced on both the House and the Senate floors while each body was in session. There was a rally in the Rotunda with speakers Kimberli McCallum, MD, Representatives Rachel Storch and Rick Stream, and three people who told their recovery stories: Katie, Lexi and Danielle. Approximately 40 people attended the rally. After the rally, the group dispersed to meet with individual legislators and distribute flyers outlining Missouri Eating Disorder facts and information on House Bill 519.

The Eating Disorder group generated a lot of interest in the Capitol. Legislators were stunned by the statistics and facts surrounding this disease and admitted they knew little about Eating Disorders. The day was a success in that the goals of generating awareness and asking for support were accomplished. February 4, 2009 marked the day that we ended the silence around Eating Disorders in Missouri.

For more information, please contact Lara at 510-435-7425 or email at lgregorio@myneda.org. Join the army of advocates who refuse to stay silent on this issue.