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September 19, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to respectfully appeal to you for support of **California AB 2338** (sponsored by Assemblyman Marc Levine, D-Marin), referred to as the **Talent Protection Act**.

I currently serve as the President of the Academy for Eating Disorders (AED), an international medical society representing physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, academic researchers, and others fighting to bring relief to individuals suffering from eating disorders – anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge-eating disorder, and other variations of these deadly mental illnesses. The AED has many members in the state of California who join me in urging enactment of this Act.

At least 30 million Americans suffer from an eating disorder in their lifetime and eating disorders are the third most common chronic illness among adolescent females. Every 62 minutes at least one person dies from an eating disorder, and anorexia nervosa has the highest mortality rate of all mental disorders, with a mortality rate of 5% per decade.

The entertainment industry has provided haven to predators and operated under a system of secrecy in which victims were pressured and intimidated into silence. The fashion industry poses an added risk to the physical and mental health of professional models, who must endure pervasive pressure to conform to an unhealthy and unrealistic thinness. This legislation will help create a workplace environment where artists are aware of their rights and know how to identify sexual harassment. California has enacted similar preventative measures in other industries.

We understand that the Talent Protection Act, AB 2338, would require talent agencies to:

- Create educational materials on sexual harassment prevention, retaliation, nutrition, and eating disorders.
- Make those educational materials available to their artists.

- Require training in sexual harassment prevention, retaliation, reporting resources, nutrition, and eating disorders for underage artists and their parent or legal guardian.

Thank you for your consideration. This Act, AB 2338 will save lives!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kyle De Young', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kyle De Young, PhD, FAED  
President