

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The observance of Mental Illness Awareness Day on  
2 February 28, 2013, brings much-needed attention to a serious and  
3 often misunderstood issue that affects the lives of millions of  
4 Texans; and

5           WHEREAS, An estimated one in four American adults suffers  
6 from a mental disorder in a given year, and 11 percent of children  
7 and adolescents have a mental health condition that causes severe  
8 functional impairment; and

9           WHEREAS, Depressive disorders are the leading cause of  
10 disability worldwide and are associated with a significant risk of  
11 suicide; among 15- to 24-year-olds, suicide accounts for 12 percent  
12 of all deaths, more than eight times the rate for the U.S.  
13 population as a whole; and

14           WHEREAS, The effects of mental illness on veterans are a  
15 growing cause for concern, with an estimated 22 committing suicide  
16 every day; of the 2.4 million who have served in Iraq and  
17 Afghanistan, more than 200,000 have been formally diagnosed with  
18 post-traumatic stress disorder, and experts believe that many more  
19 could be affected because of inadequacies in screening and  
20 diagnosis; rates of PTSD are considered to be even higher among  
21 Vietnam War veterans, with 30 percent of men and 27 percent of women  
22 experiencing it at some point in their lifetimes; and

23           WHEREAS, The stigma associated with mental illness can result  
24 in discrimination and bullying along with damaging effects on

1 relationships with loved ones; although mentally ill individuals  
2 are far more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators,  
3 there is a widespread perception that persons living with mental  
4 health conditions pose a threat to others; and

5       WHEREAS, In spite of its prevalence and debilitating effects,  
6 mental illness often goes undiagnosed and untreated; roughly half  
7 of all people experiencing homelessness have mental health issues,  
8 and nearly eight times more Texans with serious mental illness are  
9 in jails and prisons than in hospitals, in contrast to the national  
10 rate of three to one; the availability of resources has further  
11 declined during the past three years, as states have lost some \$4  
12 billion in mental health funding due to budget cuts brought on by  
13 the economic downturn; and

14       WHEREAS, Today, thanks to new discoveries in genetics, modern  
15 brain research, and psychiatry, mental illness is no longer the  
16 frightening mystery that it once was; advances in medical science  
17 have revealed that serious mental disorders have a biological basis  
18 similar to physical illnesses like heart disease and diabetes;  
19 moreover, like the heart, the human brain is a vital organ whose  
20 illnesses can be successfully treated; and

21       WHEREAS, Sophisticated medicines can greatly ease the  
22 suffering of patients with mental illness and help many return to  
23 normal, productive, and rewarding lives; studies have shown that  
24 aiding the mentally ill can also have a positive effect on the  
25 economy, with a potential return of \$23 for every \$1 spent on mental  
26 health services in Texas; and

27       WHEREAS, Such organizations as Mental Health America of

1 Texas, the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Texas, the  
2 Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, and the Federation of  
3 Texas Psychiatry work to improve the quality of life of persons with  
4 mental illness by promoting treatment and prevention, eliminating  
5 stigma, increasing housing opportunities, and advancing smart  
6 investment in mental health services; the dedicated efforts of  
7 these groups and other advocates across the state help to ensure  
8 that all Texans have access to humane and effective mental health  
9 care, and in so doing, they stand to greatly benefit our society as  
10 a whole; now, therefore, be it

11       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
12 Legislature hereby recognize February 28, 2013, as Mental Illness  
13 Awareness Day at the State Capitol and encourage all Texans to learn  
14 more about this important health matter.

J. Davis of Harris  
Alonzo  
Burkett

Straus	M. Gonzalez of El Paso	Oliveira
Allen	N. Gonzalez of El Paso	Orr
Alonzo	Gooden	Otto
Alvarado	Guerra	Paddie
Anchia	Guillen	Parker
Anderson	Gutierrez	Patrick
Ashby	Harless	Perez
Aycock	Harper-Brown	Perry
Bell	Hernandez Luna	Phillips
Bohac	Herrero	Pickett
Bonnen of Brazoria	Hilderbran	Pitts
Bonnen of Galveston	Howard	Price
Branch	Huberty	Raney
Burkett	Hughes	Ratliff
Burnam	Hunter	Raymond
Button	Isaac	Reynolds
Callegari	Johnson	Riddle
Canales	Kacal	Ritter
Capriglione	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Carter	King of Hemphill	Rodriguez of Travis
Clardy	King of Parker	Rose
Coleman	King of Taylor	Sanford
Collier	King of Zavala	Schaefer
Cook	Kleinschmidt	Sheets
Cortez	Klick	Sheffield of Bell
Craddick	Kolkhorst	Sheffield of Coryell
Creighton	Krause	Simmons
Crownover	Kuempel	Simpson
Dale	Larson	Smith
Darby	Laubenberg	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Lavender	Springer
J. Davis of Harris	Leach	Stephenson
S. Davis of Harris	Lewis	Stickland
Deshotel	Longoria	Strama
Dukes	Lozano	Taylor
Dutton	Lucio III	Thompson of Brazoria
Eiland	Marquez	Thompson of Harris
Elkins	Martinez	Toth
Fallon	Martinez Fischer	Turner of Collin
Farias	McClendon	Turner of Harris
Farney	Menendez	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	Villalba
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villarreal
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White
Geren	Munoz, Jr.	Workman
Giddings	Murphy	Wu
Goldman	Naishtat	Zedler
Gonzales	Nevarez	Zerwas

H.R. No. 561

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 561 was adopted by the House on February 28, 2013, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House