

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 240

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join Texans across the state in observing February 28, 2013, as Mental Illness Awareness Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Mental disorders are the leading cause of disability in the United States; in Texas, approximately one in four adults suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year, while some 11 percent of Texas children have a mental illness, and suicide is the second leading cause of death in Texans from age 15 to 24; and

WHEREAS, Mental health funding has been cut by billions of dollars across the nation; with thousands of psychiatric beds no longer available, many people with mental illness end up in jail or prison; nearly half of all people experiencing homelessness suffer from mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress disorder has become a serious problem among our nation's military veterans; the United States Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that nearly one third of Vietnam veterans and at least 200,000 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from the disease; veterans are also at a higher risk for suicide; and

WHEREAS, Those suffering from mental illnesses continue to face social stigma and are often subject to bullying, discrimination, and lack of understanding; individuals with mental disorders are more likely to be victims than perpetrators of violence; and

WHEREAS, Medical science has made exceptional strides in

diagnosing and treating mental disorders; there is a growing realization that most mental illnesses have a biological basis and that sophisticated medicines can end the suffering of most patients so that they can return to productive and rewarding lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby commend all those who are working to prevent and treat mental illnesses and extend to them best wishes for a successful and memorable Mental Illness Awareness Day at the Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.

Huffman

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 27, 2013.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate