

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The observance of Mental Illness Awareness Day on  
2 February 19, 2015, 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 one-fifth of young  
7 people ages 13 to 18 experience a mental health condition that  
8 causes severe functional impairment; the most common form of mental  
9 illness is anxiety disorders, which are believed to affect 18  
10 percent of the adult population; and

11 WHEREAS, Major depression, which affects 6.7 percent of  
12 adults, is a leading cause of disability worldwide and is  
13 associated with a significant risk of suicide; in the  
14 15-to-24-year-old age group, suicide accounts for 20 percent of all  
15 deaths annually, and over 90 percent of those who die by suicide had  
16 one or more mental disorders; and

17 WHEREAS, The impact of mental illness on military veterans is  
18 a growing cause for concern; among service members who have been  
19 deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, one in five has been formally  
20 diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, and experts believe  
21 that many more could be affected because of inadequacies in  
22 screening and diagnosis; a particularly worrying trend is the high  
23 suicide rate of veterans relative to the general population, with  
24 an estimated 22 committing suicide every day; and

1       WHEREAS, For some, the stigma associated with mental illness  
2 can result in discrimination and bullying and take a damaging toll  
3 on relationships with loved ones; although mentally ill individuals  
4 are far more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators,  
5 there is a widespread perception that persons living with mental  
6 health conditions pose a threat to others; and

7       WHEREAS, In spite of its prevalence and debilitating effects,  
8 mental illness often goes undiagnosed and untreated; roughly half  
9 of all people experiencing homelessness have severe mental health  
10 or substance abuse issues, and far more Texans with serious mental  
11 illness are in jails and prisons than in hospitals; and

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

19       WHEREAS, Sophisticated medicines can greatly ease the  
20 suffering of patients with mental illness and help many return to  
21 normal, productive, and rewarding lives; according to a 2009  
22 report, increased mental health expenditures could also be a strong  
23 economic stimulus, with a potential return of \$23 for every \$1 spent  
24 on mental health services in Texas; and

25       WHEREAS, Agencies and organizations across the state and  
26 nation are committed to improving the quality of life of persons  
27 with mental illness by promoting treatment and prevention,

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1 eliminating stigma, increasing housing opportunities, and  
2 advancing smart investment in mental health services; Mental  
3 Illness Awareness Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the  
4 commendable efforts of these groups to ensure that effective mental  
5 health care is available for every Texan in need; now, therefore, be  
6 it

7       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
8 Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2015, as Mental Illness  
9 Awareness Day at the State Capitol and encourage all Texans to learn  
10 more about this important health matter.

King of Taylor  
Burkett  
Naishtat  
Coleman

Straus	Guerra	Otto
Allen	Guillen	Paddie
Alonzo	Gutierrez	Parker
Alvarado	Harless	Paul
Anchia	Hernandez	Peña
Anderson of Dallas	Herrero	Phelan
Anderson of McLennan	Howard	Phillips
Ashby	Huberty	Pickett
Aycock	Hughes	Price
Bell	Hunter	Raney
Blanco	Isaac	Raymond
Bohac	Israel	Reynolds
Bonnen of Brazoria	Johnson	Riddle
Bonnen of Galveston	Kacal	Rinaldi
Burkett	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Burns	Keough	Rodriguez of Travis
Burrows	King of Hemphill	Romero, Jr.
Button	King of Parker	Rose
Canales	King of Taylor	Sanford
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Schaefer
Clardy	Klick	Schofield
Coleman	Koop	Shaheen
Collier	Krause	Sheets
Cook	Kuempel	Sheffield
Craddick	Landgraf	Simmons
Crownover	Larson	Simpson
Dale	Laubenberg	Smith
Darby	Leach	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Spitzer
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Springer
Deshotel	Lucio III	Stephenson
Dukes	Márquez	Stickland
Dutton	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Elkins	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Faircloth	McClendon	Tinderholt
Fallon	Menéndez	Turner of Collin
Farias	Metcalf	Turner of Harris
Farney	Meyer	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	VanDeaver
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villalba
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White of Bell
Galindo	Muñoz, Jr.	White of Tyler
Geren	Murphy	Workman
Giddings	Murr	Wray
Goldman	Naishtat	Wu
Gonzales	Nevárez	Zedler
González	Oliveira	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 529 was adopted by the House on February 19, 2015, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House