SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 688

WHEREAS, The Texas Senate recognizes mental health as a vital part of the overall health and well-being of individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, There are many dedicated organizations that work to enrich the lives of individuals in the El Paso community who have a mental illness and to provide assistance and support to their families; these organizations include the National Alliance on Mental Illness-El Paso Affiliate, El Paso Behavioral Health System, Alternatives Centre for Behavioral Health, Centro San Vicente, Emergence Health Network, and Paso del Norte Health Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Eliminating stigma and negative bias associated with mental illness helps individuals and their families to cope, seek timely treatment, recover, and maximize their health and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, All individuals in the El Paso community deserve to have the knowledge, skill, and opportunity to understand the facts and recognize the myths surrounding mental illness and to take timely action to prevent negative health outcomes such as substance abuse, domestic violence, suicide, incarceration, and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Concerned individuals and organizations are working to develop, through public and private partnerships, policies that will eliminate disparities, improve community outreach and engagement, reduce barriers to access, and ensure culturally and linguistically competent care and support for diverse communities; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th

Legislature, hereby recognize May 2015 as National Mental Health Awareness Month in Texas and commend the people of El Paso County for their efforts to eliminate stigma and negative bias associated with mental illness; and, be it further **RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as an

expression of support and esteem from the Texas Senate.

Rodríguez

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 5, 2015.

Secretary of the Senate