86R2625 BK-D

By:  Thierry H.C.R. No. 16

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The annual observance of Mental Health Month in May serves as an opportunity to bring about greater public understanding of mental health issues and to promote treatment, care, and support for those living with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, A mental illness is a medical condition that disrupts a person's thinking, feeling, mood, interpersonal relationships, and, in the most serious cases, their ability to carry out the essential tasks of daily life; and

WHEREAS, Every year, approximately 42.5 million American adults, comprising slightly over 18 percent of the total adult population, suffer from some form of mental illness, such as depression, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia; in Texas, one in every five adults will experience a mental health concern at some point in a given year, and more than 20 percent of children between the ages of 9 and 17 have a diagnosed mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Mental illnesses can affect persons of any age, race, religion, or income and are not the result of personal weakness or lack of character; many individuals with mental health disorders experience feelings of alienation from their peers because of their condition, and there remains a strong stigma attached to mental illness that can result in discrimination, including from families, friends, employers, and others; mental health problems can impact a person's quality of life in numerous ways, and severe, untreated cases are associated with a higher risk of suicide; and

WHEREAS, Innovations and advancements in mental health care, ranging from medications and therapy to various support services, have helped make recovery a reality for countless people; outcomes are shown to be greatly improved when patients are engaged and involved in their own care and when they receive acceptance and encouragement from loved ones and peers; and

WHEREAS, Increased public awareness, support, and advocacy are key to improving issues related to mental illness, and all Texans are encouraged to affirm their commitment to these important efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate May as Mental Health Month; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally passed by the legislature.