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By:  Thompson of Harris H.R. No. 1388

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Children and adolescents, like adults, can have mental health disorders that affect their ability to lead happy, active lives; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that one in every five children in the United States will need mental health care services during his or her lifetime; it is further estimated that more than 250,000 young Texans are in need of mental health assistance and live at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Texans between the ages of 15 and 34, and over 12 percent of Texas high school students report that they have attempted suicide at least once; if left untreated, mental health issues can increase the risk of suicide, in addition to contributing to the likelihood of problems at school, family conflicts, and drug use; and

WHEREAS, Children and youth with mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs and their families can achieve a better quality of life when they are provided with appropriate resources, treatments, and support and when they are met with acceptance and understanding in their communities; the Texas System of Care was established with the vision of building a coordinated network of community-based services that can help young people function better at home, at school, and elsewhere in their lives; and

WHEREAS, Children's Mental Health Awareness Day on May 6, 2019, which coincides with National Mental Health Month, is dedicated to highlighting the importance of positive mental health to the development of all children and youth; and

WHEREAS, Our communities share the responsibility of ensuring that young people have access to the services they need to feel safe, happy, and confident, and the observance of Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is an opportunity to affirm our commitment to addressing a public health issue with real implications for the future of our state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize May 6, 2019, as Children's Mental Health Awareness Day and encourage Texans to learn more about the prevalence of mental health conditions in children and youth; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the Texas System of Care as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.