

By: Thierry

H.C.R. No. 16

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

1 of suicide; and

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

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

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

14 RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section
15 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
16 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
17 passed by the legislature.