

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 128

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join organizations across the state in observing February 6, 2019, as Mental Illness Awareness Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Mental illness is a serious and often misunderstood issue that affects the lives of millions of Texans; an estimated 25 percent of American adults and 13 percent of young people between the ages of eight and 15 suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year; and

WHEREAS, Major depression is a leading cause of disability worldwide and is associated with a significant risk of suicide; over 90 percent of those who commit suicide suffer from a mental illness at the time of their death; and

WHEREAS, Chronic mental illness often develops early in life; it begins by the age of 14 in approximately one-half of cases and by the age of 24 in three-quarters of cases; and

WHEREAS, The impact of mental illness on the nation's veterans and its active-duty military is a serious cause for concern; among soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, rates of post-traumatic stress disorder reach as high as 31 percent after a year of deployment, and veterans face an exceedingly high rate of suicide; and

WHEREAS, Police officers frequently become first responders to persons suffering a mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, Prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general population; and

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WHEREAS, Recent scientific advances have helped to remove the stigma once associated with mental illnesses, and organizations across the state and nation are committed to improving the lives of those affected by mental illness through the promotion of prevention and treatment methods; it is truly fitting that a day be set aside to recognize and support those efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby recognize February 6, 2019, as Mental Illness Awareness Day at the State Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.

Huffman

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 6, 2019.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate