87R8194 TBO-D

By:  Thierry H.C.R. No. 31

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Adolescent mental health is a topic of critical concern that has far-ranging implications in Texas and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association estimates that approximately 20 percent of children in the U.S. have a diagnosable mental health disorder, and less than half of these individuals receive treatment or support; common conditions that affect youth include depression, anxiety, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, conduct disorder, eating disorders, and psychosis; and

WHEREAS, Mental health disorders can have dangerous and life-threatening impacts on the youth that experience them; suicide is the third leading cause of death in teenagers aged 15 to 19, and 62,000 adolescents worldwide died as a result of self-harm in 2016; furthermore, evidence shows that many adolescents engage in risk-taking behaviors and substance abuse as a means of coping with mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, Too many young Texans lack access to the treatment and counseling they need to overcome such challenges; moreover, those adolescents who do receive some form of assistance are frequently involved with multiple public agencies, and there is lack of central oversight to coordinate care; and

WHEREAS, Developing effective strategies and expanding access to treatment can benefit not only the young people who struggle with adverse mental health conditions but also their families, schools, and communities, and an essential first step in that process is to focus public attention on this urgent health care issue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate May 5 as Teen Mental Health Awareness Day; 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.