

By: Thierry

H.C.R. No. 31

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

11 WHEREAS, Mental health disorders can have dangerous and
12 life-threatening impacts on the youth that experience them; suicide
13 is the third leading cause of death in teenagers aged 15 to 19, and
14 62,000 adolescents worldwide died as a result of self-harm in 2016;
15 furthermore, evidence shows that many adolescents engage in
16 risk-taking behaviors and substance abuse as a means of coping with
17 mental health issues; and

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

23 WHEREAS, Developing effective strategies and expanding
24 access to treatment can benefit not only the young people who

1 struggle with adverse mental health conditions but also their
2 families, schools, and communities, and an essential first step in
3 that process is to focus public attention on this urgent health care
4 issue; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
6 hereby designate May 5 as Teen Mental Health Awareness Day; and, be
7 it further

8 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
9 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
10 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
11 passed by the legislature.