Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1020 By: Roe and Stark

A Resolution recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month; recognizing the impact of mental health in Oklahoma.

WHEREAS, mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States, affecting one out of every four families and victimizing both the person with the illness and those persons who care for and love the person afflicted; and

WHEREAS, serious mental illness costs Americans approximately $193.2 billion in lost earnings per year; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health has reported that many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time and that 45 percent of those with a mental disorder meet criteria for two or more disorders, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and cancer, and the severity of the mental disorder strongly relates to comorbidity; and

WHEREAS, fifty-seven million Americans have a mental disorder in any given year, but fewer than 40 percent of adults living with a mental illness, and slightly more than one-half of youth 8 to 15 years of age, received mental health services in the last year; and

WHEREAS, although mental illness impacts all people, many of those in lower income communities receive less care and poorer quality of care, and often lack access to culturally competent care, thereby resulting in mental health disparities; and

WHEREAS, some see negative perceptions about mental health care as a significant factor contributing to limited or nonexistent access to care, having the common concerns like stigma, culture, masculinity, exposure to violence, and lack of information and awareness, among many others; and

WHEREAS, the three major brain diseases, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression, adversely affect the economy, contribute to the rise of incarceration rates, and erode the quality of life for patients and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable mental illness do not receive mental health treatment due to stigma, lack of community-based resources, inadequate diagnosis, or no diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, across the United States, 16.5 percent of school-age children have at least one mental health disorder, and suicide is now the second-leading cause of death for youth; and

WHEREAS, academic studies show that one-half of those individuals who will develop mental health disorders show symptoms by 14 years of age; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 70 percent of all youth in the juvenile justice system have at least one mental health condition, and at least 20 percent live with severe mental illness that is usually undiagnosed, misdiagnosed, untreated, or ineffectively treated, thus leaving those detained in the juvenile justice system in a vulnerable condition; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve public awareness of mental illness and to strengthen local and national awareness of brain diseases, so that all those with mental illness may receive adequate and appropriate treatment that will result in their becoming fully functioning members of society; and

WHEREAS, access to mental health treatment and services is of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to encourage primary care physicians to offer screenings, to partner with mental health care providers, to seek appropriate referrals to specialists, and to encourage timely and accurate diagnoses of mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to enhance public awareness of mental illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives hereby recognizes May 2023 as National Mental Health Awareness Month to enhance public awareness of mental illness.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 18th day of May, 2023.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 19th day of May, 2023, at 10:57 o'clock A. M.

By: Brian Bingman