



HR0106

LRB102 14469 MST 19821 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Mental health is a state of well-being in which
3 the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope
4 with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and
5 fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her
6 community; and

7 WHEREAS, There is a stigma around mental health issues
8 that can often prevent informed conversations on mental health
9 issues as well as proper treatment from taking place; removing
10 the stigma surrounding mental health issues will allow those
11 suffering with mental health issues to more easily seek
12 treatment and gain an understanding of their condition; and

13 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses are health conditions that are
14 characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior,
15 or some combination thereof, associated with distress or
16 impaired functioning; behavioral health is defined as the
17 behaviors and biology relating to a person's mental
18 well-being, ability to function in everyday life, and concept
19 of self; and

20 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses take on a wide variety of forms,
21 including, but not limited to, mood disorders such as
22 depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, dementias, and

1 eating disorders, which can be associated with learning
2 disabilities; and

3 WHEREAS, Learning disabilities are neurologically based
4 mental processing disabilities that can give rise to
5 difficulties in acquiring knowledge and skills; learning
6 disabilities include, but are not limited to, autism,
7 dyslexia, visual processing disorders, auditory processing
8 disorders, ADHD, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and dyspraxia; and

9 WHEREAS, Children with learning disabilities are
10 disproportionately affected by mental health issues; 36% of
11 children with a learning disability will also develop mental
12 health issues; and

13 WHEREAS, Mental health is essential to one's overall
14 health and well-being, and mental health issues can strike a
15 person regardless of his or her age, gender, race, ethnicity,
16 religion, or economic status; and

17 WHEREAS, There is a lack of awareness of how to treat
18 mental health issues and of resources available for that
19 purpose; there is also a crisis of unaddressed mental health
20 issues in the United States and the State of Illinois; and

21 WHEREAS, Those suffering from a mental illness and their

1 loved ones often do not understand how to identify the
2 symptoms and warning signs; and

3 WHEREAS, Untreated mental health issues lead to lost
4 potential and numerous societal problems, such as increased
5 incarceration rates, substance abuse rates, and emergency room
6 visits; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Mental
8 Health, there are an estimated 43.7 million adults with a
9 mental disorder, or 18.6% of the total adult population in the
10 United States; just over 20% of American children, either
11 currently or at some point during their life, have or will have
12 a seriously debilitating mental disorder; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Survey on Drug Use and Health found
14 that only 58.7% of adults in the United States with a serious
15 mental illness received treatment for a mental health problem;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The National Health and Nutrition Examination
18 Survey found that only 50.6% of children with mental disorders
19 had received treatment for their disorder within the past
20 year; and

21 WHEREAS, With proper treatment, many mental health

1 problems can dissipate or be reduced to a level where the
2 person can fully function; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the National Alliance on Mental
4 Illness, successful treatment rates for mental illness are
5 extremely high and range from between 60% to 80%; the
6 successful treatment rate for schizophrenia is roughly 60%,
7 while depression is 70% and bipolar disorder is 80%; and

8 WHEREAS, People with mental illness who are in treatment
9 can lead full, productive lives in their communities; and

10 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that
11 89.3 million Americans live in federally designated Mental
12 Health Professional Shortage areas, where there is little to
13 no access to mental health professionals; and

14 WHEREAS, A Journal of Psychiatric Services survey found
15 that 47% of people untreated for mental health issues reported
16 cost as a reason not to seek treatment; the same survey also
17 found that 66% of untreated mental health patients did not go
18 to a doctor because they thought the problem would get better
19 on its own; and

20 WHEREAS, Six of 12 City of Chicago public mental health
21 clinics were closed in 2012; and

1 WHEREAS, A total of 64.2% of inmates in local jails
2 satisfied the criteria for a mental health problem currently
3 or in the previous year; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice's Survey
5 of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities found
6 that fewer than half of inmates with a mental health problem
7 have ever received treatment and only one-third received
8 mental health treatment after admission; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Alliance on Mental Illness found
10 that states collectively cut \$1.8 billion from their mental
11 health budgets during the recession; the organization also
12 found that, from 2009 to 2012, Illinois cut mental health
13 funding by \$187 million, a 31.7% reduction; Illinois cut the
14 fourth most of any state during this time period; and

15 WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act makes behavioral and
16 mental health treatment available to people throughout the
17 country, especially those who could not previously afford
18 treatment; and

19 WHEREAS, Mental health issues influence all branches of
20 State government, including public health, children and family
21 services, criminal justice, housing, employment, and other

1 services; and

2 WHEREAS, It should be a fundamental goal of the State of
3 Illinois to ensure proper awareness, identification, and
4 treatment for mental health issues; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we acknowledge the seriousness of mental health issues in
8 Illinois and strive to improve awareness and treatment of
9 these issues; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we urge the members of the General Assembly
11 to have discussions and forums with their communities to
12 promote awareness of mental health issues and access to mental
13 health resources; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we encourage the members of the General
15 Assembly and all school districts in Illinois to post
16 information on mental health issues and local treatment
17 resources on their public websites; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we encourage all school districts in
19 Illinois to implement mental health screenings to properly
20 identify students with mental health problems; and be it
21 further

1 RESOLVED, That we encourage the federal government to
2 improve mental health awareness, treatment, and funding to
3 improve the lives of citizens struggling with mental health
4 issues; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
6 delivered to President Joe Biden, the United States House of
7 Representatives, and the United States Senate to review and
8 discuss at the national level.