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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 858 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, BIZZARRO, BURNS, HANBIDGE, KENYATTA,  
KINSEY, KOSIEROWSKI, MADDEN, MALAGARI, McCARTER, McCLINTON,  
McNEILL, MILLARD, SANCHEZ, SCHMITT, SCHROEDER, YOUNGBLOOD,  
RYAN, SCHWEYER, TOMLINSON, KORTZ, VITALI, GALLOWAY, BOBACK,  
DELLOSO, DeLUCA, LONGIETTI, HOWARD, MACKENZIE, THOMAS, GAINNEY  
AND WEBSTER, MAY 4, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 4, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2020 as "Mental Health Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Mental health is critical to the overall well-being  
4 of individuals, families, communities and businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses are biologically based brain  
6 disorders that cannot be overcome through willpower and are not  
7 related to an individual's character or intelligence; and

8 WHEREAS, Mental health issues can affect individuals of any  
9 race, religion, economic status or age; and

10 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses usually strike individuals in the  
11 prime of their lives, often during adolescence and young  
12 adulthood; and

13 WHEREAS, Individuals with mental illness have the same needs  
14 and are guaranteed the same rights as all Americans; and

15 WHEREAS, Individuals with mental illness experience  
16 discrimination in education, employment and housing; and

1       WHEREAS, A lack of full and proper treatment for individuals  
2 with mental illness costs public and private employers billions  
3 of dollars annually through absenteeism, turnover and low  
4 productivity; and

5       WHEREAS, In 2017, an estimated 9.4% of adolescents 12 to 17  
6 years of age experienced a major depressive episode (MDE); and

7       WHEREAS, Individuals are classified as having an MDE if they  
8 experience a depressed mood or loss of interest in daily  
9 activities and have additional symptoms, including problems with  
10 sleep, eating, energy, concentration or self-worth over a  
11 certain period of time; and

12       WHEREAS, In 2017, an estimated 44.6 million adults in the  
13 United States had a mental illness that included a mental,  
14 behavioral or emotional disorder; and

15       WHEREAS, Proper identification and treatment of mental  
16 illnesses, including support, are proven to be effective and are  
17 vitally important to assist individuals in leading full,  
18 productive lives; therefore be it

19       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
20 month of May 2020 as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in  
21 Pennsylvania; and be it further

22       RESOLVED, That all government agencies, public and private  
23 institutions, businesses, schools and residents of this  
24 Commonwealth strive to increase awareness and understanding of  
25 mental illnesses and the need for appropriate and accessible  
26 services for individuals with mental illness throughout the  
27 communities of this Commonwealth.