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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 574 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY MURT, OCTOBER 21, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,  
OCTOBER 21, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 7 through 13, 2019, as "Mental  
2 Health Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Mental health is part of an individual's overall  
4 health; and

5 WHEREAS, One in five adults experience a mental health  
6 problem in any given year; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately one-half of individuals who have a  
8 chronic mental illness develop signs by 14 years of age; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately three-quarters of individuals who have  
10 a chronic mental illness develop signs by 24 years of age; and

11 WHEREAS, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the  
12 United States and the second leading cause of death among young  
13 adults; and

14 WHEREAS, Ninety percent of people who die by suicide have an  
15 underlying mental illness; and

16 WHEREAS, Decades-long delays can occur between the first  
17 appearance of symptoms of a mental illness and the time when an  
18 individual seeks treatment; and

1       WHEREAS, Early identification and treatment can make a  
2 difference in successful management of mental illness and  
3 recovery; and

4       WHEREAS, It is important to maintain mental health and learn  
5 the symptoms of mental illness in order to seek treatment when  
6 needed; and

7       WHEREAS, Every individual and each community in this  
8 Commonwealth can make a difference in ending the silence and  
9 stigma that has long surrounded mental illness and discouraged  
10 people from seeking treatment; and

11       WHEREAS, Public education and civic activities can further  
12 promote mental health awareness and improve the lives of  
13 individuals and families affected by mental illness; therefore  
14 be it

15       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
16 week of October 7 through 13, 2019, as "Mental Health Awareness  
17 Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

18       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize mental  
19 illness and help fight stigma, provide support, educate the  
20 public and advocate for equal care; and be it further

21       RESOLVED, That all citizens, businesses, schools and  
22 community organizations be encouraged to take the StigmaFree  
23 Pledge at [www.nami.org/stigmfree](http://www.nami.org/stigmfree) in conjunction with this  
24 observance.