
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 440 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, ABNEY, CONKLIN, GIRAL, PROBST, McNEILL, VENKAT, HILL-EVANS, KHAN, MAYES, HADDOCK, KINSEY, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, WAXMAN, ROZZI, OTTEN, MENTZER, PARKER, ZIMMERMAN AND DALEY, MAY 17, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 17, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2024 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

17 WHEREAS, A lack of full and proper treatment for individuals

1 with mental illness costs public and private employers hundreds
2 of billions of dollars annually through absenteeism, turnover
3 and low productivity; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2021, the National Institutes of Health estimated
5 that more than 20% of adolescents 12 to 17 years of age, a
6 population of 5 million adolescents, experienced a major
7 depressive episode (MDE); and

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

13 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Mental Health estimates
14 approximately 57 million adults in the United States have a
15 mental illness that includes a mental, behavioral or emotional
16 disorder; and

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

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
22 month of May 2024 as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in
23 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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