**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY 2012 AS “MENTAL HEALTH MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND CALL UPON ALL CITIZENS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS, BUSINESSES, AND SCHOOLS TO RECOMMIT OUR STATE TO INCREASING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL ILLNESSES, REDUCING STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION, AND PROMOTING APPROPRIATE AND ACCESSIBLE SERVICES FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES.

Whereas, a proven connection exists between good mental health and overall personal health; and

Whereas, mental illnesses affect almost every family in America; and

Whereas, people with mental illnesses recover if given the necessary services and support in their communities; and

Whereas, people with mental illnesses make important contributions to our families and our communities; and

Whereas, millions of adults and children are disabled by mental illnesses every year; and

Whereas, only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness seeks treatment for his or her mental illness; and

Whereas, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking the help they need for a full recovery; and

Whereas, research shows that the most effective way to reduce stigma is through personal contact with someone who suffers from a mental illness; and

Whereas, good mental health is critical to the well‑being of our families, communities, schools, and businesses; and

Whereas, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, proclaim the month of May 2012 as “Mental Health Month” in South Carolina and call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our State to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to members of the Pee Dee Mental Health Center.

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