**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT STATE TO INCREASE THEIR AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL HEALTH, THE STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO PROTECT MENTAL HEALTH, AND THE NEED FOR APPROPRIATE AND ACCESSIBLE SERVICES FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND TO DECLARE MAY 2019 AS “MENTAL HEALTH MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, mental health is essential to everyone’s overall health and well‑being and is just as important as physical health; and

Whereas, mental illness affects individuals regardless of their age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status; and

Whereas, mental health disorders are real and prevalent in our nation, but with effective treatment, those individuals with mental illness can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

Whereas, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization, and citizen shares the burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts; and

Whereas, gratefully, the House recognizes the efforts of organizations such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention as they create a culture that understands mental health through education and community programs, research and advocacy, and support for those affected by suicide, and the members commend the South Carolina Department of Mental Health on its fine work in the difficult task of educating the public about the often‑misunderstood issue of mental illness. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, encourage all citizens of this great State to increase their awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps that can be taken to protect mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions and declare May 2019 as “Mental Health Month” in South Carolina.

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