

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1020

 By: Roe

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8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Resolution recognizing May as Mental Health
10 Awareness Month; recognizing the impact of mental
11 health in Oklahoma.

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13 WHEREAS, mental illness is one of the leading causes of
14 disabilities in the United States, affecting one out of every four
15 families and victimizing both the person with the illness and those
16 persons who care for and love the person afflicted; and

17 WHEREAS, serious mental illness costs Americans approximately
18 \$193.2 billion in lost earnings per year; and

19 WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health has reported
20 that many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a
21 given time and that 45 percent of those with a mental disorder meet
22 criteria for two or more disorders, including diabetes,
23 cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and cancer, and the severity of
24 the mental disorder strongly relates to comorbidity; and

1 WHEREAS, fifty-seven million Americans have a mental disorder in
2 any given year, but fewer than 40 percent of adults living with a
3 mental illness, and slightly more than one-half of youth 8 to 15
4 years of age, received mental health services in the last year; and

5 WHEREAS, although mental illness impacts all people, many of
6 those in lower income communities receive less care and poorer
7 quality of care, and often lack access to culturally competent care,
8 thereby resulting in mental health disparities; and

9 WHEREAS, some see negative perceptions about mental health care
10 as a significant factor contributing to limited or nonexistent
11 access to care, having the common concerns like stigma, culture,
12 masculinity, exposure to violence, and lack of information and
13 awareness, among many others; and

14 WHEREAS, the three major brain diseases, schizophrenia, bipolar
15 disorder, and depression, adversely affect the economy, contribute
16 to the rise of incarceration rates, and erode the quality of life
17 for patients and their loved ones; and

18 WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable
19 mental illness do not receive mental health treatment due to stigma,
20 lack of community-based resources, inadequate diagnosis, or no
21 diagnosis; and

22 WHEREAS, across the United States, 16.5 percent of school-age
23 children have at least one mental health disorder, and suicide is
24 now the second-leading cause of death for youth; and

1 WHEREAS, academic studies show that one-half of those
2 individuals who will develop mental health disorders show symptoms
3 by 14 years of age; and

4 WHEREAS, an estimated 70 percent of all youth in the juvenile
5 justice system have at least one mental health condition, and at
6 least 20 percent live with severe mental illness that is usually
7 undiagnosed, misdiagnosed, untreated, or ineffectively treated, thus
8 leaving those detained in the juvenile justice system in a
9 vulnerable condition; and

10 WHEREAS, there is a need to improve public awareness of mental
11 illness and to strengthen local and national awareness of brain
12 diseases, so that all those with mental illness may receive adequate
13 and appropriate treatment that will result in their becoming fully
14 functioning members of society; and

15 WHEREAS, access to mental health treatment and services is of
16 paramount importance; and

17 WHEREAS, there is a need to encourage primary care physicians to
18 offer screenings, to partner with mental health care providers, to
19 seek appropriate referrals to specialists, and to encourage timely
20 and accurate diagnoses of mental disorders; and

21 WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to enhance public awareness of
22 mental illness.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
24 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

1 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives hereby recognizes May
2 2023 as National Mental Health Awareness Month to enhance public
3 awareness of mental illness.

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5 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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