STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION HCR1035

By: Lindley and Gilbert of the House

and

Cain of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution declaring May to be Mental Health Month in the State of Oklahoma; and providing for distribution.

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Surgeon General's 1999 Report on Mental Health, mental illnesses strike one in five Americans; and

WHEREAS, almost half of the adults with serious and persistent mental illnesses are between the ages of 25 and 44; and

WHEREAS, according to a World Health Organization study, mental illness is the second leading cause of disability and premature mortality in the United States and other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, the indirect costs of mental illness to society, including lost productivity at work, are estimated at $78.6 billion; and

WHEREAS, 16% of state prison inmates are reported to have a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses have an immense impact on individuals and families, but less than half of those who suffer these disorders seek care; and

WHEREAS, mental illness can be effectively treated and managed, resulting in a higher quality of life for those with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, various entities such as the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Oklahoma Mental Health Consumer Council, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill - Oklahoma, and others work together to educate the public about the devastating effects of untreated mental illness and to improve the quality of life for Oklahomans afflicted with these disorders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT May is hereby declared to be Mental Health Month in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT copies of this Resolution be distributed to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Oklahoma Mental Health Consumer Council, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill – Oklahoma, the Mental Health Association of Oklahoma City and the Mental Health Association of Tulsa.

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