HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1070   By: Roe

AS INTRODUCED

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

WHEREAS, mental illness is one of the leading causes of

disabilities in the United States, affecting one out of every four

families and victimizing both the person with the illness and those

persons who care for and love the person afflicted; and

WHEREAS, serious mental illness costs Americans approximately

$193.2 billion in lost earnings per year; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health has reported

that many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a

given time and that 45 percent of those with a mental disorder meet

criteria for two or more disorders, including diabetes,

cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and cancer, and the severity of

the mental disorder strongly relates to comorbidity; and

WHEREAS, fifty-seven million Americans have a mental disorder in

any given year, but fewer than 40 percent of adults living with a

mental illness, and slightly more than one-half of youth 8 to 15

years of age, received mental health services in the last year; and

WHEREAS, although mental illness impacts all people, many of

those in lower income communities receive less care and poorer

quality of care, and often lack access to culturally competent care,

thereby resulting in mental health disparities; and

WHEREAS, some see negative perceptions about mental health care

as a significant factor contributing to limited or nonexistent

access to care, having the common concerns like stigma, culture,

masculinity, exposure to violence, and lack of information and

awareness, among many others; and

WHEREAS, the three major brain diseases, schizophrenia, bipolar

disorder, and depression, adversely affect the economy, contribute

to the rise of incarceration rates, and erode the quality of life

for patients and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable

mental illness do not receive mental health treatment due to stigma,

lack of community-based resources, inadequate diagnosis, or no

diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, across the United States, 16.5 percent of school-age

children have at least one mental health disorder, and suicide is

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 2ND SESSION OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

1   THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives hereby recognizes May

2   2022 as National Mental Health Awareness Month to enhance public

3   awareness of mental illness.

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5   58-2-11497   KN   05/05/22

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