

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE  
4 RESOLUTION 1020

By: Roe

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7 AS INTRODUCED

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

11  
12 WHEREAS, mental illness is one of the leading causes of  
13 disabilities in the United States, affecting one out of every four  
14 families and victimizing both the person with the illness and those  
15 persons who care for and love the person afflicted; and

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

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

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            59-1-8352            TJ            05/08/23

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