



HR0912

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 1990, Congress designated the first full week
3 in October as Mental Illness Awareness Week in recognition of
4 the efforts by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
5 to raise mental illness awareness; each year the movement grows
6 stronger as people work together to fight stigma, provide
7 support, and advocate for equal care; and

8 WHEREAS, The lives of millions of Americans are affected
9 daily by mental health conditions; according to NAMI,
10 approximately one in five adults experiences mental illness in
11 a given year, and approximately one in five young people
12 experience a severe mental disorder at some point during life;
13 half of all chronic mental illness begins by age 14; three
14 quarters begins by age 24; despite effective treatment, there
15 are long delays, sometimes decades, between the first
16 appearance of symptoms and when people get help; and

17 WHEREAS, Each mental illness has its own symptoms, and
18 trying to tell the difference between what expected behaviors
19 are and what might be the signs of a mental illness is not
20 always easy; there is no easy test to diagnose mental illness;
21 common signs in adults and adolescents can include excessive
22 worrying or fear, extreme mood changes, changes in sleeping and
23 eating habits, and difficulty perceiving reality; and

1 WHEREAS, Individuals living with serious mental illness
2 face an increased risk of having chronic medical conditions;
3 adults in the United States living with serious mental illness
4 die, on average, 25 years earlier than others, largely due to
5 treatable medical conditions; and

6 WHEREAS, Public policy makes a difference in the lives of
7 both the people living with mental health conditions and the
8 people in their lives; changes in policy can mean better
9 outcomes; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
12 declare the week of October 7-13, 2018 as Mental Illness
13 Awareness Week in the State of Illinois; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we encourage communities throughout the
15 State to come together and show support for the many people
16 affected by mental illness and for those who advocate for
17 mental health awareness.