



SR0547

LRB099 12360 GRL 35528 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The mental health and well-being of the citizens
3 of Illinois is vital to the health of communities and families
4 of the State, along with the State's economic stability; and

5 WHEREAS, One in four Americans will experience a mental
6 illness in their lifetime, with approximately 1.5 million
7 Illinois adults and more than 300,000 Illinois children
8 diagnosed; and

9 WHEREAS, The stigma associated with mental illnesses has
10 resulted in people not seeking the care they need and has
11 historically allowed insurance companies to cover mental
12 health benefits differently than other medical benefits; these
13 practices have been accepted and perpetuated by the stigma; and

14 WHEREAS, Due to the stigma and a lack of access to care,
15 people with serious mental illnesses often do not get the care
16 they need until they are disabled by their illness; as a
17 result, the public sector pays for 60% of all mental health
18 care nationally; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2011, suicide due to the presence of a mental
20 health condition was the third leading cause of death for
21 children between the ages of 10 and 14, and the second leading

1 cause of death for youth and adults between the ages of 15 and
2 34; and

3 WHEREAS, Individuals with mental illnesses can and do
4 recover by utilizing treatment regimens, particularly
5 community-based services and supports; more than 60% of
6 Illinois children and 59% of Illinois adults living with a
7 mental health condition do not receive a diagnosis or treatment
8 for their illness; and

9 WHEREAS, Effective treatment of mental illnesses continues
10 to improve through advances in brain and behavioral research;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Data confirms that untreated mental illnesses
13 significantly contribute to lost productivity and absenteeism
14 in the workplace, and that limitations on mental health
15 services increase employers' direct and indirect healthcare
16 costs; and

17 WHEREAS, Limiting mental health care has resulted in
18 homelessness, institutionalization, and mass incarceration of
19 individuals with untreated serious mental illnesses, the costs
20 of which are borne by taxpayers; and

21 WHEREAS, Mental illness is a leading cause of disability in

1 the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, Each year, the month of May is recognized as
3 "Mental Health Awareness Month" in the United States;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the month
7 of May in 2015 as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in the State
8 of Illinois.