

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, one in five teens has had a serious mental health disorder at some point in their life; and

Whereas, mental health problems may lead to poor school performance, school dropout, strained family relationships, involvement in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems, substance abuse, and engaging in risky sexual behaviors; and

Whereas, suicide is the second-leading cause of death among adolescents ages fifteen to nineteen; and

Whereas, depression, anxiety and behavioral disorders are among the leading causes of illness and disability among adolescents; and

Whereas, the consequences of failing to address adolescent mental health conditions extend to adulthood, impairing both physical and mental health and limiting opportunities to lead fulfilling lives as adults; and

Whereas, there is a lack of referral services and specialists trained in dealing with adolescents' specialized mental health needs:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One hundred first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby recognize a need for mental health awareness training requirement for pupils in public schools and charter schools, so that Missouri adolescents can become more familiar with, and work towards the prevention of, mental health disorders; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to send a properly inscribed

copy of this resolution to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.