

No. R-160. House concurrent resolution recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.127)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, one in five adults in the United States experiences mental illness each year, and 104,000 adults in Vermont live with a mental health condition, and

Whereas, according to the Vermont Department of Health, 142 Vermonters lost their lives to suicide in 2021, and the Vermont suicide rate of 20.3 percent was higher than the national suicide rate of 14 percent, and

Whereas, the police arrest one in four Americans with a serious mental illness at some point during the lifetime of those individuals, and, annually, over two million of these Americans are booked into jail, and

Whereas, nationally, two in five adults in jail or prison have a history of mental illness, and seven in ten youths in the juvenile justice system have a mental health condition, and

Whereas, in the United States, high school students with depression are more than twice as likely to drop out than are their peers, and

Whereas, 40.8 percent of Vermonters 12–17 years of age who have depression did not receive any care in the last year, and

Whereas, more than 1,000 persons in Vermont are homeless, and one in three of these persons lives with a serious mental illness, and

Whereas, the area where someone resides plays a significant role in that individual's overall health and well-being, and

Whereas, safe, stable, and healthy home conditions can establish the foundation for the achievement and maintenance of good mental health, and

Whereas, individuals with mental health conditions can lead full and productive lives, and

Whereas, every business, school, government agency, care provider, and Vermonter shares the burden of unmet mental health needs and has a responsibility to promote good mental health and wellness, and

Whereas, in 1949, Mental Health America (formerly known as the National Mental Health Association) designated May as Mental Health Awareness Month, and this occasion merits observance in Vermont, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to NAMI (the National Alliance for Mental Health) Vermont and to the Commissioner of Mental Health.