



HR0478

LRB099 12273 GRL 35254 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Mental health is a state of well-being in which
3 the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with
4 the normal stresses of life, can work productively and
5 fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her
6 community; and

7 WHEREAS, There is a stigma around mental health issues that
8 can often prevent informed conversations on mental health
9 issues as well as proper treatment from taking place; removing
10 the stigma surrounding mental health issues will allow those
11 suffering with mental health issues to more easily seek
12 treatment and gain an understanding of their condition; and

13 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses are health conditions that are
14 characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior, or
15 some combination thereof, associated with distress or impaired
16 functioning; behavioral health is defined as the behaviors and
17 biology relating to a person's mental well-being, ability to
18 function in everyday life, and concept of self; and

19 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses take on a wide variety of forms,
20 including, but not limited to, mood disorders such as
21 depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, dementias, and
22 eating disorders, which can be associated with learning

1 disabilities; and

2 WHEREAS, Learning disabilities are neurologically based
3 mental processing disabilities that can give rise to
4 difficulties in acquiring knowledge and skills; learning
5 disabilities include, but are not limited to, autism, dyslexia,
6 visual processing disorders, auditory processing disorders,
7 ADHD, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and dyspraxia; and

8 WHEREAS, Children with learning disabilities are
9 disproportionately affected by mental health issues; 36% of
10 children with a learning disability will also develop mental
11 health issues; and

12 WHEREAS, Mental health is essential to one's overall health
13 and well-being, and mental health issues can strike a person
14 regardless of his or her age, gender, race, ethnicity,
15 religion, or economic status; and

16 WHEREAS, There is a lack of awareness of how to treat
17 mental health issues and of resources available for that
18 purpose; there is also a crisis of unaddressed mental health
19 issues in the United States and the State of Illinois; and

20 WHEREAS, Those suffering from a mental illness and their
21 loved ones often do not understand how to identify the symptoms

1 and warning signs; and

2 WHEREAS, Untreated mental health issues lead to lost
3 potential and numerous societal problems, such as increased
4 incarceration rates, substance abuse rates, and emergency room
5 visits; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Mental
7 Health, there are an estimated 43.7 million adults with a
8 mental disorder, or 18.6% of the total adult population in the
9 United States; just over 20% of American children, either
10 currently or at some point during their life, have or will have
11 a seriously debilitating mental disorder; and

12 WHEREAS, The National Survey on Drug Use and Health found
13 that only 58.7% of adults in the United States with a serious
14 mental illness received treatment for a mental health problem;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The National Health and Nutrition Examination
17 Survey found that only 50.6% of children with mental disorders
18 had received treatment for their disorder within the past year;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, With proper treatment, many mental health
21 problems can dissipate or be reduced to a level where the

1 person can fully function; and

2 WHEREAS, According to the National Alliance on Mental
3 Illness, successful treatment rates for mental illness are
4 extremely high and range from between 60% to 80%; the
5 successful treatment rate for schizophrenia is roughly 60%,
6 while depression is 70% and bipolar disorder is 80%; and

7 WHEREAS, People with mental illness who are in treatment
8 can lead full, productive lives in their communities; and

9 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 89.3
10 million Americans live in federally designated Mental Health
11 Professional Shortage areas, where there is little to no access
12 to mental health professionals; and

13 WHEREAS, A Journal of Psychiatric Services survey found
14 that 47% of people untreated for mental health issues reported
15 cost as a reason not to seek treatment; the same survey also
16 found that 66% of untreated mental health patients did not go
17 to a doctor because they thought the problem would get better
18 on its own; and

19 WHEREAS, Six of 12 City of Chicago public mental health
20 clinics were closed in 2012; and

1 WHEREAS, A total of 64.2% of inmates in local jails
2 satisfied the criteria for a mental health problem currently or
3 in the previous year; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice's Survey
5 of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities found
6 that fewer than half of inmates with a mental health problem
7 have ever received treatment and only one-third received mental
8 health treatment after admission; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Alliance on Mental Illness found that
10 states collectively cut \$1.8 billion from their mental health
11 budgets during the recession; the organization also found that,
12 from 2009 to 2012, Illinois cut mental health funding by \$187
13 million, a 31.7% reduction; Illinois cut the fourth most of any
14 state during this time period; and

15 WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act makes behavioral and
16 mental health treatment available to people throughout the
17 country, especially those who could not previously afford
18 treatment; and

19 WHEREAS, Mental health issues influence all branches of
20 State government, including public health, children and family
21 services, criminal justice, housing, employment, and other
22 services; and

1 WHEREAS, It should be a fundamental goal of the State of
2 Illinois to ensure proper awareness, identification, and
3 treatment for mental health issues; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 acknowledge the seriousness of mental health issues in Illinois
7 and strive to improve awareness and treatment of these issues;
8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we urge the members of the General Assembly
10 to have discussions and forums with their communities to
11 promote awareness of mental health issues and access to mental
12 health resources; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we encourage the members of the General
14 Assembly and all school districts in Illinois to post
15 information on mental health issues and local treatment
16 resources on their public websites; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we encourage all school districts in
18 Illinois to implement mental health screenings to properly
19 identify students with mental health problems; and be it
20 further

1 RESOLVED, That we encourage the federal government to
2 improve mental health awareness, treatment, and funding to
3 improve the lives of citizens struggling with mental health
4 issues; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
6 delivered to President Barack Obama, the United States House of
7 Representatives, and the United States Senate to review and
8 discuss at the national level.