

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2024

Source
HCR 15

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
25



Designating May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month; and designating May 5 - 11, 2024, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS one in five adults in the United States experiences a mental illness each year, and it is estimated that over 108,000 adults in the state have a mental health condition, such as major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and a growing number of other debilitating behavioral health conditions; and

WHEREAS one in six youths aged 6 - 17 in the United States experiences a mental health disorder each year; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the peak age of onset of a mental health disorder is adolescence and early adulthood, with half of all mental health conditions beginning by age 14, and 75 percent by age 24; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that over 8,000 youths in the state aged 12 - 17 experience depression, 62.9 percent of whom did not receive care in the last year; and

WHEREAS high school students with significant symptoms of depression are more than twice as likely to drop out as students without symptoms of depression; and

WHEREAS more than half of the individuals in the United States with mental health conditions did not receive treatment last year; and

WHEREAS, with residents of the state struggling to receive needed mental health care, 29,000 adults in the state did not receive the care last year, with cost being the reason for which over 42 percent of those individuals did not receive the care; and

WHEREAS 377,470 residents of the state live in communities that do not have enough mental health professionals; and

WHEREAS anyone is susceptible to experiencing mental health difficulties, just as anyone is susceptible to physical health issues and emergencies; and

WHEREAS studies suggest that between 10 and 30 percent of people who take antipsychotic medications to treat a mental health disorder will develop a movement disorder called tardive dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in four patients receiving long-term treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience tardive dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS tardive dyskinesia affects approximately 600,000 people in the United States, and nearly 70 percent of Americans living with tardive dyskinesia have not yet been diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, although tardive dyskinesia may look or feel different from day to day, it is a chronic condition and symptoms may be persistent; and

WHEREAS one in eight emergency department visits in the United States is related to mental illness or substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS suicide is a public health problem and leading cause of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS the state ranks third in the nation in suicides per capita, suicide is the second leading cause of death for individuals aged 10 - 34 in the state, and, on average, one person dies by suicide every 48 hours in the state; and

WHEREAS it is more important than ever to build a stronger mental health system that provides the care, support, and services needed to help people build better lives; and

WHEREAS the state of an individual's mental health affects the individual's ability to navigate the environment and societal relationships, adapt to changing situations, and develop

healthy coping strategies; and

WHEREAS addressing complicated mental health needs with coordinated, comprehensive mental health services provides a lifeline for families and individuals struggling with the complex process of locating appropriate treatment; and

WHEREAS residents of the state must work together to overcome and eliminate the discrimination and stigma that may deter individuals from seeking consistent support and adequate mental health treatment;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages all residents of the state to recognize those affected by mental health issues and the important role that support, acceptance, and mental health services play in enriching the lives of the residents of the state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature designates May 5 - 11, 2024, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature designates May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month.