

House Resolution 603

By: Representatives Wilson of the 80th, Kennard of the 102nd, Jones of the 25th, Gambill of the 15th, and Kausche of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the work of the Georgia Mental Health Policy Partnership and Substance Use
2 Disorder Community Coalition and recognizing January 26, 2022, as Mental Health Day at
3 the state capitol; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, mental health is a critical part of overall wellness; and

5 WHEREAS, a 2022 national study by Mental Health America ranked Georgia 48th
6 nationwide in overall access to mental health care; and

7 WHEREAS, the same study showed that 17.9 percent of Georgia adults—nearly 1.5 million
8 people—are experiencing a mental illness, although 63.5 percent of them have received no
9 treatment, ranking Georgia second worst in the nation for the prevalence of untreated adults;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the same study showed that 13.8 percent of Georgia youth aged 12 to 17
12 reported suffering from at least one major depressive episode in the past year and that 13.9
13 percent of Georgia youth aged 12 to 17 reported suffering from severe major depression;
14 despite this, Georgia ranks 47th in the nation for prevalence of untreated youth with

15 depression with 67.8 percent of Georgia youth with major depression having received no
16 mental health treatment; and

17 WHEREAS, one Georgian dies by suicide every seven hours, and two Georgia counties are
18 ranked among the top 20 counties nationwide with the highest percentages of their
19 populations reporting frequent suicidal ideation, according to a 2020 study by Mental Health
20 America; and

21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Mental Health Policy Partnership and Substance Use Disorder
22 Community Coalition has formed to call attention to the urgent need for Georgia
23 policymakers to focus on improving mental health outcomes in 2022, the Year of Mental
24 Health in Georgia; and

25 WHEREAS, the Georgia Mental Health Policy Partnership and Substance Use Disorder
26 Community Coalition is composed of more than 14 advocacy organizations serving
27 Georgians affected by mental health as well as their caretakers, representing the largest
28 constituency of Georgians in the public policy community.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body commend the Georgia Mental Health Policy Partnership and
31 Substance Use Disorder Community Coalition for their critical work to call attention to this
32 vital issue and recognize January 26, 2022, as Mental Health Day at the state capitol.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
35 Georgia Mental Health Policy Partnership and Substance Use Disorder Community
36 Coalition.