

1 A RESOLUTION establishing the official Kentucky Mental Health Flag.

2 WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, mental illness can take a number of forms, including anxiety,  
5 attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorder, bipolar disorder, eating  
6 disorders, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, personality disorders, post-  
7 traumatic stress disorders, and schizophrenia; and

8 WHEREAS, the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) estimates that less  
9 than 20% of children with diagnosable mental health problems receive the treatment they  
10 need; and

11 WHEREAS, NAMI estimates that there is often a ten year gap between the onset of  
12 symptoms of mental illness and a proper diagnosis for children; and

13 WHEREAS, early treatment can help prevent more severe, lasting problems as a  
14 child grows up, including preventing incidences of criminal diversion, drug and alcohol  
15 abuse, and suicide; and

16 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that suicide is  
17 the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34, and  
18 the fourth leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 35 and 54; and

19 WHEREAS, people with mental illnesses face both the challenges of their disease  
20 and the social stigmas associated with having the disease; and

21 WHEREAS, social stigmas associated with mental illness create barriers to access  
22 and quality care for mental illness; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Christopher Peters of The Bingham Childhood Clinic states that  
24 creating a recognizable and pleasant symbol which relates to and carries a message for  
25 mental health is an important step in undoing the negative effects of a stigma; and

26 WHEREAS, to create this recognizable and pleasant symbol to undo the negative  
27 effects of a stigma, The Pete Foundation for Depression Prevention collaborated with

1 over 100 Louisville mental health organizations/care providers, artists, designers,  
2 advocates, and community members to create the Mental Health Flag to convey support  
3 for all efforts in mental health; and

4 WHEREAS, those collaborators' goal is for the flag to become a global symbol for  
5 supporting all mental health initiatives and all those affected by mental illness; and

6 WHEREAS, the Mental Health Flag incorporates green to symbolize mental health  
7 awareness, yellow to symbolize happiness and hope, and a curved shape to represent both  
8 embracing those suffering from mental illness and an acceptance of mental health as a  
9 community focus; and

10 WHEREAS, the Mental Health Flag incorporates different shades of color from  
11 dark green to yellow to represent both a personal journey from a dark place to a happy  
12 place and the community's collective efforts to bring the topic of mental health out of the  
13 darkness and into the light;

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

15 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***  
16 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

17 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby designates the Mental Health  
18 Flag developed through collaborative efforts of The Pete Foundation for Depression  
19 Prevention and other agencies as the official mental health flag for the Commonwealth of  
20 Kentucky.

21 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives encourages citizens, government  
22 agencies, schools, businesses, and public and private institutions to commit to increasing  
23 awareness and understanding of mental health.

24 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
25 copy of this Resolution to Representative Tina Bojanowski.