

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY REPRESENTATIVE TURNER

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Tuesday, May 17, 2022, as Rural Mental Health Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, to the members of the legislature, the mental health condition and the well being of all children, youth, adults, and families are of fundamental importance; and

WHEREAS, for individuals to achieve their full potential, good mental health is essential; and

WHEREAS, mental health disorders can affect the ability of an individual to carry out daily tasks, establish or maintain relationships, or pursue other important endeavors; and

WHEREAS, rural areas comprise roughly eighty percent of Louisiana's total geographic area, and such areas have a chronic shortage of mental health professionals; and

WHEREAS, in the state, there are approximately 179,000 adults who are living with a serious mental illness, including, but not limited to, bipolar disorder, severe depression, and schizophrenia, and one in six children experience a mental health disorder each year; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, approximately one individual dies by suicide every twelve hours; and

WHEREAS, for mental health conditions, the delays in treatment are longer than many other health conditions; and

WHEREAS, early and effective treatment of mental health conditions is critical to reducing the number of individuals and families who find themselves in mental health crises, to breaking the individual and generational cycles of mental illness, and to promoting healing; and

WHEREAS, recovery from a mental illness requires access to professionals and rehabilitative services, and also involves families and caregivers as allies during the recovery process; and

WHEREAS, individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of an open dialogue regarding mental health conditions encourages individuals struggling with mental illness to seek help, and is an essential component to fighting the stigma associated with mental illness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Tuesday, May 17, 2022, as Rural Mental Health Day at the state capitol and does hereby encourage citizens of the great state of Louisiana to raise awareness of mental health conditions and to break the stigma surrounding mental illness.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES