

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHLEGEL, ADAMS, COX, ECHOLS, HUGHES, TRAVIS
JOHNSON, KNOX, LARVADAIN, MCMAHEN, DUSTIN MILLER, MOORE,
SELDERS, STAGNI, AND TURNER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare to form a subcommittee to be comprised of member from his committee to study the mental health crisis plaguing the citizens of Louisiana and the resources available to assist individuals with a mental health diagnosis in this state.

WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) stated in its 2021 data report that one hundred seventy-nine thousand adults in the state of Louisiana are battling serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, according to NAMI's 2021 data report, roughly three million three hundred ninety-eight thousand nine hundred ninety people in the state of Louisiana live in a community that lacks a sufficient number of healthcare providers who treat those with mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, according to the Behavioral Health Barometer: Louisiana, Volume 6 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the amount of young adults with mental health challenges, eighteen to twenty-five years of age, has increased in the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, according to the East Baton Rouge Parish Health Profile of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), an estimated six hundred fifty thousand Louisiana adults and two hundred forty-six thousand Louisiana children are likely to experience a diagnosable mental disorder in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, a 2023 press release by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that adolescents from all racial and ethnic groups have reportedly felt as though they lacked purpose and experienced higher levels of constant unhappiness; and

WHEREAS, the CDC's data stated that substance use for adolescents is commonly associated with mental health issues and other factors; and

WHEREAS, according to LDH, "The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the challenges facing adolescents' and children's mental health, causing altered experiences at home, school, and during in-person social interactions. The pandemic also highlighted the need for increased access to healthcare and social services as an alarming number of young people struggle with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide. In response, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children's Hospital Association have declared a national state of emergency in child and adolescent mental health."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare to form a subcommittee to be comprised of members from his committee to solicit research and make recommendations for proposed legislation and policy changes relative to the mental health crisis in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee shall serve as chairman of the subcommittee at its initial meeting to be held before September 1, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2024, the subcommittee established by this Resolution shall submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a written report of its findings and recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES