2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 88

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To designate May 4, 2023, as Rural Mental Health Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of all children, youth, adults and families in Louisiana are of fundamental importance; and

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to each person's ability to achieve his or her full potential, and mental health disorders can affect the ability of an individual to carry out daily tasks, establish or maintain relationships, or pursue other fundamental endeavors; and

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

WHEREAS, there are approximately 179,000 adults in the state who are living with a serious mental illness, including bipolar disorder, severe depression, and schizophrenia, and one in six of Louisiana's children experience a mental health disorder each year; and

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

WHEREAS, the delays in treatment for mental health conditions 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 and to promoting healing; and

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Thursday, May 4, 2023, as Rural Mental Health Day at the state capitol and hereby encourages citizens of the great state of Louisiana to raise awareness of mental health conditions and services and to break the stigma surrounding mental illness.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES