

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 193

Supporting the designation of the week of May 2, 2021, as “Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week” and the day of May 9, 2021, as “Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2021

Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of the week of May 2, 2021, as “Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week” and the day of May 9, 2021, as “Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day”.

Whereas children in the United States were already experiencing a public health crisis regarding mental and behavioral health before the additional challenges of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic;

Whereas a 2013 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that mental disorders affect between 13 and 20 percent of children in a given year and cost approximately \$247,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the National Institute of Mental Health estimates that nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of adolescents aged 13 to 18 years old will experience some form of a mental disorder;

Whereas, in 2019, over 11 percent of children ages 3 to 17 years old received treatment or counseling from a mental health professional, according to the United States Census Bureau;

Whereas suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth ages 10 to 24 years old, and 90 percent of those individuals have an underlying mental illness;

Whereas, during the COVID–19 pandemic, increased isolation and collective trauma have led to an increase in demand for mental health services for children, with the proportion of mental health-related visits to emergency rooms for children increasing from approximately 24 to 31 percent between 2019 and 2020;

Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic has also laid bare the inequities in our mental health delivery system for all populations, and such inequities have disproportionately impacted children and adults who have been exposed to adverse childhood experiences prior to and during the pandemic; and

Whereas the stigma of accessing mental and behavioral health services persisted before the COVID–19 pandemic, and acknowledging this public health crisis and creating awareness as early as possible is as important as ever: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the designation of the week of May

3 2, 2021, as “Children’s Mental Health Awareness

1 Week” and the day of May 9, 2021, as “Children’s
2 Mental Health Awareness Day”;

3 (2) recognizes the importance of connecting
4 children with appropriate mental and behavioral
5 health services and supports;

6 (3) seeks to create awareness regarding the ad-
7 ditional challenges children and their families have
8 faced during the COVID–19 pandemic due to isola-
9 tion from family and peers, exposure to traumas,
10 and barriers to mental and behavioral health services
11 and supports;

12 (4) supports programs and services aimed at
13 expanding access to care, building resiliency, and ad-
14 dressing trauma; and

15 (5) appreciates and extends its gratitude to
16 family members, friends, educators, mental and be-
17 havioral health service providers, and others in their
18 support for children’s mental health and well-being.

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