

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 480

Supporting the designation of May 2016 as “Mental Health Month”.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 26, 2016

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mrs. MURRAY)  
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of May 2016 as “Mental Health  
Month”.

Whereas mental health and the emotional well-being of individuals in the United States are foundational issues that affect individual, family, and community quality of life and economic prosperity;

Whereas studies note that individuals with serious mental illness die, on average, 25 years earlier than individuals in the general population;

Whereas individuals with mental illness, behavioral health disorders, or co-occurring substance use disorders can recover through treatment that includes psychosocial therapy, clinical treatment, and peer support, alone or in combination with behavioral, psychiatric, psychological, or integrated medical services;

Whereas prevention strategies can prevent or delay the onset of many mental health conditions;

Whereas recovery-oriented interventions such as supported employment, supported housing, and supported education have been shown to improve outcomes for individuals with mental illness;

Whereas mental illness impacts individuals across the United States and in every walk of life;

Whereas nearly 44,000,000 adults in the United States live with mental illness and 20 percent of children and adolescents have a diagnosable mental health disorder;

Whereas 1 in 25 individuals in the United States has lived with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression;

Whereas approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  of students age 14 or older with a mental illness drop out of school and 70 percent of adolescents in the juvenile justice system have a mental illness;

Whereas the average delay from the onset of symptoms of mental illness to therapeutic intervention for teens is between 8 and 10 years;

Whereas suicide is the 10th-leading cause of death in the United States and leads to the death of more than 41,000 individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas negative perception and stigma continue to be associated with mental illness, which contributes to individuals not seeking needed care;

Whereas nearly 15 percent of men and 31 percent of women in jails have a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder; and

Whereas it would be appropriate to observe May 2016 as  
“Mental Health Month”: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2           (1) supports the designation of “Mental Health  
3       Month” to reduce the stigma associated with mental  
4       illness and to encourage individuals to seek care;

5           (2) recognizes that mental well-being is criti-  
6       cally important and linked to the well-being of indi-  
7       viduals, communities, and the economy in the United  
8       States;

9           (3) supports the integration of national and  
10       local community efforts to promote public awareness  
11       of mental health and to support individuals and fam-  
12       ilies affected by mental illness; and

13          (4) encourages the people of the United States  
14       to view “Mental Health Month” as a chance to pro-  
15       mote mental health wellness, to ensure access to  
16       services, and to improve the quality of life of individ-  
17       uals living with mental illness.

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