

No. R-336. House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.257)

Offered by: Representatives Berbeco of Winooski, Andrews of Westford, Andriano of Orwell, Arrison of Weathersfield, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Boyden of Cambridge, Brown of Richmond, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buss of Woodstock, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Chapin of East Montpelier, Chase of Chester, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Demar of Enosburgh, Dolan of Essex Junction, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Jerome of Brandon, Krasnow of South Burlington, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, Minier of South Burlington, Mrowicki of Putney, Ode of Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, Scheu of Middlebury, Stebbins of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, Torre of Moretown, Troiano of Stannard, White of Bethel, Whitman of Bennington, Williams of Barre City, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, one in five adults in the United States experiences mental illness each year, and everyone faces challenges in life that can impact their mental health, and

Whereas, an individual's mental health is an essential part of overall well-being, impacting individuals, families, and communities across Vermont, and

Whereas, despite its prevalence, mental health issues remain stigmatized, preventing many from seeking help, and

Whereas, early intervention and access to quality care are crucial for managing mental health conditions and improving quality of life, and

Whereas, individuals with mental health conditions can lead full and productive lives, and

Whereas, every business, school, government agency, care provider, and Vermonter shares the burden of unmet mental health needs and has a responsibility to promote good mental health and wellness, and

Whereas, since 1949, May has been recognized nationally as Mental Health Awareness Month, providing an opportunity to raise awareness, combat stigma, and promote mental health resources, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Vermont and to the Commissioner of Mental Health.