

Rep. Kowall offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 255.

A resolution to commemorate the Mental Health Association in Michigan on its 75th anniversary.

Whereas, The Mental Health Association in Michigan was founded in November 1936 and began operations in 1937; and

Whereas, The Association has endeavored to improve the quality of life for state residents experiencing mental illness over the past 75 years; and

Whereas, The Association has been and remains renowned for its policy analysis and governmental advocacy efforts, believing it can do the greatest good for the greatest number through this approach; and

Whereas, The Association has been in the forefront of many critical mental health advances during its history including enactment of the state's first school social worker law, establishment of the first state-operated psychiatric hospital for children, development and subsequent revision of the state's Mental Health Code, and the initiation of Community Mental Health programming in Michigan; and

Whereas, The Association has been led by a distinguished group of Michigan citizens serving as its Board Chairs, including former directors of the Michigan Department of Mental Health, former legislators, members of the judiciary, clergy, and others; and

Whereas, The Association's work fills a vital role in Michigan, with one in four adults and one in five children experiencing a mental disorder annually; and

Whereas, Untreated or inadequately treated mental illness causes considerable human suffering, family difficulties, and negative consequences for society in areas such as justice system incarceration and homelessness; and

Whereas, Adults with serious mental illness have a lifespan 25 years shorter than the rest of the population; and

Whereas, Technology improves annually for identifying mental illnesses and helping people recover from them, yet many public misconceptions about mental illness still remain; and

Whereas, The Association is a recognized leader in current efforts to improve mental health insurance coverage, divert persons with mental illness from justice system incarceration, promote better access to treatment mechanisms and combat stigmatization of mental illness; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body commemorate the Mental Health Association in Michigan on its 75th anniversary. We commend the organization on its effective work of enriching the lives of individuals and families experiencing mental illness and extend best wishes in their future efforts to replace hopelessness and despair with recovery and opportunity.