

AS ADOPTED BY SENATE, MAY 1, 2019

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO.43

Senator VanderWall, Alexander, Ananich, Barrett, Bayer, Brinks, Bullock, Chang, Daley, Hertel, Irwin, Johnson, Lucido, McCann, McMorro, Moss, Polehanki, Santana, Wojno and Zorn offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to recognize May 2019 as Mental Health Awareness  
2   Month.

3           Whereas, The month of May has been designated as Mental Health  
4   Awareness Month by Mental Health for America and its affiliates  
5   since 1949; and

6           Whereas, Tens of thousands of Michigan citizens are afflicted  
7   with a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder at any  
8   given moment. Services under the mental health code include  
9   assistance for conditions such as anxiety disorders, schizophrenia,

1 eating disorders and depression, and for addictive behaviors; and

2       Whereas, The people of Michigan who are living with a mental  
3 health illness or addiction continue to require support and  
4 professional assistance in order to improve their quality of living  
5 and return to an independent, healthy, and fulfilling life; and

6       Whereas, In any given year, 336,000 adults in Michigan will  
7 have a serious mental illness and 56 percent of these adults will  
8 receive no treatment for their illness; and

9       Whereas, Mental illness can affect anyone, regardless of age.  
10 In our state, 84,000 adolescents will experience a major depressive  
11 episode a year; and

12       Whereas, There are 526,000 adults who experience heavy alcohol  
13 abuse in any given month and 205,000 individuals, from the ages of  
14 12 or older, who will experience an illicit drug dependence a year.  
15 Further, 91 percent of adults with heavy alcohol abuse and 81  
16 percent of individuals with an illicit drug dependence will forgo  
17 treatment for their addiction; and

18       Whereas, By ignoring the illnesses of our fellow citizens, it  
19 will only further stigmatize those who suffer from a mental,  
20 behavioral, or emotional disorder. If we leave those members  
21 behind, it will only harm our community; and

22       Whereas, Michigan and the United States need to continue to  
23 reduce the stigmatization of mental illness and lend our support to  
24 those who are living with mental health disorders and addictions so  
25 they can seek professional assistance; now, therefore, be it

26       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
27 body recognize May 2019 as Mental Health Awareness Month.