SLS 26RS-2288 **ORIGINAL**

2026 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 49

BY SENATOR MIZELL

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Recognizes May as National Mental Health Awareness Month.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Louisiana and to request the residents of this state, organizations, healthcare providers, and government officials to make special efforts to advocate for policies that expand access to high-quality mental health and substance use care that supports Louisiana residents in living longer, healthier, more productive lives.

WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Department of Health, 93% of Louisiana residents live in a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area (MHPSA); and

WHEREAS, nearly eight hundred forty thousand adults in Louisiana live with a mental illness and almost sixty thousand adolescents in Louisiana, ages twelve through seventeen, have depression or anxiety; and

WHEREAS, 21% of children ages three through seventeen in the United States have been diagnosed with a mental, emotional, or behavioral health condition; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the second leading cause of death amongst people ages ten through thirty-four and the eleventh leading cause of death in the United States overall; and

WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Department of Insurance, residents in Louisiana spend the highest percentage of their family income on health insurance, up to 15.6%, more than any other state; and

WHEREAS, across the United States, 44% of the people in local jails have a history of mental illness and 63% have a substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, repeated arrests and longer incarceration periods for people with behavioral health issues result in increased human and fiscal costs; and

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to a person's life in the same capacity as physical health and allows us to take better care of ourselves and our families; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the mental health of a community supports the development of a healthy workforce and advances economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, a lack of access to high-quality mental health and substance use care leads to devastating impacts on the wellbeing of individuals and society; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has made great progress in expanding access to mental health services statewide, but more must be done to reach underserved populations and people in every corner of the state.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Louisiana and does hereby request residents of this state, organizations, healthcare providers, and government officials to make special efforts to support policies that expand access to high-quality mental health and substance use care and to continue supporting Louisiana residents to live longer, healthier, more productive lives.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SCR 49 Original 2026 Regular Session Mizell

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