

By Senator Farmer

34-02533-18

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 3-10, 2018, as  
"Mental Health Awareness Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, an estimated 43.6 million Americans 18 years of age and older experience some form of mental illness, and an estimated 7.9 million Americans experience both a mental illness and a substance abuse disorder, and

WHEREAS, more than 660,000 adults and 181,000 children in the state live with bipolar disorder, severe depression, schizophrenia, or another serious mental illness, and

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to achieving one's full potential, and mental illness can affect the ability of an individual to carry out daily tasks, establish and maintain relationships, or pursue other fundamental endeavors, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately \$193 billion in lost work earnings are a result of serious mental illnesses, and

WHEREAS, according to the American College Health Association's Spring 2014 National College Health Assessment, 14.3 percent of college students were diagnosed with anxiety, 12 percent were diagnosed with depression, and 86.4 percent reported feeling overwhelmed by the expectations of college, and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses affect people of all ages and all walks of life, including first responders, who encounter stresses on the job which can contribute to or worsen depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues, and

WHEREAS, public awareness of mental health issues and the provision of mental health treatment in a caring and supportive atmosphere are vital for those struggling with mental illness,

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30 and there are many effective actions that organizations can take  
31 to promote mental health, NOW, THEREFORE,

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33 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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35 That in recognition of the need to support the mental  
36 health of the citizens of this state, February 3-10, 2018, is  
37 recognized as "Mental Health Awareness Week" in Florida.