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House Resolution

A resolution designating May 2022 as "Mental Illness Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of all children, youth, and families is fundamental to the future of our state and local communities, and

WHEREAS, the effective treatment of mental health conditions is critical to reducing the number of individuals and families who find themselves in mental health crises, breaking individual and generational cycles of mental illness, and promoting healing within one's self, home, and community, and

WHEREAS, suicide, opioid misuse and addiction, and children's mental health remain areas of concern for the state, and

WHEREAS, maintaining an open dialogue regarding mental health conditions encourages individuals struggling with mental illness to seek help and is an essential component to fighting the stigma associated with mental illness, and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 660,000 adults and 181,000 children in the state who are living with a serious mental illness, including, but not limited to, bipolar disorder, severe depression, and schizophrenia, and

WHEREAS, nearly half of the state's population will struggle with less severe forms of mental illness at some point

HR 8065

2022

26 | during their lifetimes, and

27 | WHEREAS, recovery from a mental illness begins with self-
 28 | directed care and involves families and caregivers serving as
 29 | allies in recovery and as critical members of the care delivery
 30 | team, and

31 | WHEREAS, since 1999, the national suicide rate has
 32 | increased more than 30 percent, with more than 10 million
 33 | individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts and 1.4 million
 34 | individuals attempting suicide annually in the United States,
 35 | and

36 | WHEREAS, approximately 129 individuals die by suicide in
 37 | the United States each day, NOW, THEREFORE,

38 |
 39 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 40 | Florida:

41 |
 42 | That May 2022 is designated as "Mental Illness Awareness
 43 | Month" in Florida to raise awareness of mental health conditions
 44 | and services and to break the stigma surrounding mental illness
 45 | in the state.