

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 58

BY SENATOR LUNEAU

A RESOLUTION

To designate May 4, 2023, as Rural Mental Health Day at the Louisiana State Capitol and to commend the board of directors, staff, and provider members of the Louisiana Rural Mental Health Alliance.

WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of all children, youth, adults, and families in Louisiana are of fundamental importance to the legislature; and

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to achieve the full potential of an individual, and mental health disorders can affect the ability of an individual to carry out daily tasks, establish or maintain relationships, or pursue other fundamental endeavors; and

WHEREAS, rural areas comprise roughly eighty percent of Louisiana's total geographic area and have a chronic shortage of mental health professionals; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately one hundred seventy-nine thousand adults in the state who are living with a serious mental illness, including bipolar disorder, severe depression, and schizophrenia, and one in six of Louisiana's children experience a mental health disorder each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately one individual dies by suicide every twelve hours in Louisiana each day; and

WHEREAS, the delays in treatment for mental health conditions are longer than many other health conditions; and

WHEREAS, early and effective treatment of mental health conditions is critical to reducing the number of individuals and families who find themselves in mental health crises, to breaking individual and generational cycles of mental illness, and to promoting healing; and

WHEREAS, recovery from a mental illness requires access to professional and rehabilitative services and involves families and caregivers as allies in recovery; and

WHEREAS, individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; 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.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Thursday, May 4, 2023, as Rural Mental Health Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the citizens of the great state of Louisiana are encouraged to raise awareness of mental health conditions and services and to break the stigma surrounding mental illness in the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Katie Corkern, the executive director of the Louisiana Rural Mental Health Alliance.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE