



SPONSOR: Rep. Longhurst & Rep. Michael Smith &
Rep. Dorsey Walker & Sen. Poore
Reps. Yearick, Bolden, Bush, Carson, K. Johnson,
Morrison, Osienski, Romer, Ramone, Wilson-Anton,
Hilovsky, Harris, S. Moore, Neal, Postles; Sens. Sokola,
Lockman, Hocker, Pettyjohn, Hoffner, Lawson,
Mantzavinos, Wilson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 126

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY 2024 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH.

1 WHEREAS, 1 in 5 adults in the United States experience mental illness each year, but less than half of them
2 receive treatment; and

3 WHEREAS, over 100 Americans, teens through older adults, die by suicide each day, and suicide is the second
4 leading cause of death among Americans aged 10-34; and

5 WHEREAS, mental illness and substance use disorders are involved in 1 out of every 8 emergency department
6 visits by an adult in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, nationally, 37% of incarcerated adults and 70.4% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a
8 diagnosed mental illness; and

9 WHEREAS, 11% of youth have a mood disorder, 10% of youth have a behavior or conduct disorder, and 8% of
10 youth have an anxiety disorder; and

11 WHEREAS, 50% of all lifelong cases of mental illness begin by age 14; and

12 WHEREAS, mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of mental health and the advantages to individuals and our
15 communities of providing resources to identify and treat mental health conditions as early as possible, the 151st General
16 Assembly passed HB 100 and HB 300 which creates a mental health services unit to fund a position for counselors,
17 psychologists, social workers and mental health therapists in schools with kindergarten through 5th grade, and in 6th
18 through 8th grade; and

19 WHEREAS, to continue the work of HB 100 and HB 300, the General Assembly has introduced and is
20 considering HB 200 which would create a mental health services unit in schools with 9th through 12th grade; and

21 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic, social, and educational disruptions have served to
22 exacerbate mental health conditions in both adults and children, making the availability of mental health resources more
23 important than ever.

24 NOW, THEREFORE:

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
26 Senate concurring therein, that May is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon citizens, government agencies, and others to
28 raise mental health awareness and continue helping Delawareans to live longer, healthier, more productive lives.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution recognizes the month of May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month.