

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

Senator VanderWall offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize May 2019 as Mental Health Awareness
2 Month.

3 Whereas, The month of May has been designated as Mental Health
4 Awareness Month by Mental Health for America and its affiliates
5 since 1949; and

6 Whereas, Tens of thousands of Michigan citizens are afflicted
7 with a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder at any
8 given moment. Services under the mental health code include
9 assistance for conditions such as anxiety disorders, schizophrenia,
10 eating disorders and depression, and for addictive behaviors; and

11 Whereas, The people of Michigan who are living with a mental
12 health illness or addiction continue to require support and

1 professional assistance in order to improve their quality of living
2 and return to an independent, healthy, and fulfilling life; and

3 Whereas, In any given year, 336,000 adults in Michigan will
4 have a serious mental illness and 56 percent of these adults will
5 receive no treatment for their illness; and

6 Whereas, Mental illness can affect anyone, regardless of age.
7 In our state, 84,000 adolescents will experience a major depressive
8 episode a year; and

9 Whereas, There are 526,000 adults who experience heavy alcohol
10 abuse in any given month and 205,000 individuals, from the ages of
11 12 or older, who will experience an illicit drug dependence a year.
12 Further, 91 percent of adults with heavy alcohol abuse and 81
13 percent of individuals with an illicit drug dependence will forgo
14 treatment for their addiction; and

15 Whereas, By ignoring the illnesses of our fellow citizens, it
16 will only further stigmatize those who suffer from a mental,
17 behavioral, or emotional disorder. If we leave those members
18 behind, it will only harm our community; and

19 Whereas, Michigan and the United States need to continue to
20 reduce the stigmatization of mental illness and lend our support to
21 those who are living with mental health disorders and addictions so
22 they can seek professional assistance; now, therefore, be it

23 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
24 body recognize May 2019 as Mental Health Awareness Month.