

Senate Joint Resolution 39

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates May 8 of each year as Mental Health Awareness Day.

JOINT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas more than 175,000 adults and 75,000 children in Oregon will need some kind of mental
3 health service each year; and

4 Whereas mental illness is a medical condition affecting an individual's brain and nervous system;
5 and

6 Whereas mental illness negatively affects an individual's feelings, moods and daily functioning,
7 as well as cognition and ability to relate to others; and

8 Whereas mental illness indiscriminately affects individuals regardless of age, race, religion or
9 income; and

10 Whereas mental illness usually strikes individuals during their adolescence and young
11 adulthood, but both the young and the old are also vulnerable to mental illness; and

12 Whereas the social and personal costs of neglecting mental illness far exceed the costs of pro-
13 viding direct services to individuals and their families living with mental illness; and

14 Whereas without treatment, the consequences of mental illness are severe and include unem-
15 ployment, substance abuse, homelessness, inappropriate incarceration and suicide; and

16 Whereas the economic cost of untreated mental illness in the United States is more than \$100
17 billion each year; and

18 Whereas state and local governments must support effective methods of coordinating and fund-
19 ing mental health and addiction services and create a shared sense of responsibility for individuals
20 with mental illness in our community; and

21 Whereas most individuals who live with mental illness can experience relief and recovery from
22 their symptoms through diagnosis and participation in an individual recovery plan; and

23 Whereas the best treatments for mental illness currently available are highly effective, signif-
24 icantly reducing symptoms and improving the quality of life for 70 to 90 percent of those individuals
25 who obtain treatment that includes peer support, medications, psychosocial treatments and other
26 support and services; and

27 Whereas individuals with mental illness experience prejudice, exclusion, rejection and discrimi-
28 nation; and

29 Whereas it is incumbent on all Oregonians to confront inaccurate and harmful representations
30 of mental illness and to challenge stereotypes about the realities of mental illness; and

31 Whereas mental health recovery is a journey of healing and transformation that enables an in-
32 dividual to live a meaningful life in the community while achieving the individual's full potential;

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 now, therefore,

2 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

3 That the eighth day of May in each year is designated as Mental Health Awareness Day. All
4 Oregon citizens are urged to join in this observance.

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