**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF MAY 2016 AS “MENTAL HEALTH MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO RAISE COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE NEED FOR APPROPRIATE AND ACCESSIBLE SERVICES FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly call upon all citizens, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in South Carolina to increase our state’s understanding and acceptance of mental illnesses; and

Whereas, mental health is critical to the well‑being and vitality of our families, businesses, and communities; and

Whereas, mental illness affects people regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Department of Mental Health observes Mental Health Month each year in May to raise awareness of mental health, mental illness, and discrimination against people with mental illnesses; and

Whereas, the General Assembly commends the South Carolina Department of Mental Health for its fine work in the difficult task of educating the public about the often‑misunderstood issue of mental illness. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, designate the month of May 2016 as “Mental Health Month” in South Carolina and raise community awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

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