Public Law 98-458
98th Congress

Joint Resolution

Designating the week beginning on October 7, 1984, as "Mental Illness Awareness Week".

Oct. 9, 1984
[S.J. Res. 322]

Whereas mental illness is a problem of grave concern and consequence in American society, though one widely but unnecessarily feared and misunderstood;

Whereas thirty-one to forty-one million Americans annually suffer from clearly diagnosable mental disorders involving significant disability with respect to employment, attendance at school, or independent living;

Whereas mental illness in at least twelve million children interferes with vital developmental and maturational processes;

Whereas our growing population of the elderly is particularly vulnerable to mental illness;

Whereas mental illness costs our Nation $65,000,000,000 annually, including lost productivity;

Whereas mental illness is increasingly a treatable disability with excellent prospects for amelioration and recovery when properly recognized;

Whereas in recent years there have been unprecedented major research developments bringing new methods and technology to the sophisticated and objective study of the functioning of the brain and its linkages to both normal and abnormal behavior;

Whereas research in recent decades has led to a wide array of new and more effective modalities of treatment (pharmacological, behavioral, psychosocial) for some of the most incapacitating forms of mental illness (including schizophrenia, major affective disorders, phobias, and panic disorders);

Whereas appropriate treatment of mental illness has been demonstrated to be cost-effective in terms of restored productivity, reduced utilization of other health services, and lessened social dependence; and

Whereas recent and unparalleled growth in scientific knowledge about mental illness has generated the current emergence of a new threshold of opportunity for future research advances and fruitful application to specific clinical problems: Now, therefore, be it

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Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the week beginning on October 7, 1984, is hereby designated as "Mental Illness Awareness Week", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved October 9, 1984.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 322:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 130 (1984):
Aug. 10, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 2, considered and passed House.