

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 243

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of mental health awareness, mental disorders, and early detection of mental illnesses to facilitate entry into treatment.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2000

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (for herself, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. MEEKS of New York) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of mental health awareness, mental disorders, and early detection of mental illnesses to facilitate entry into treatment.

Whereas an estimated 28 percent of the population of the United States has a diagnosable mental or substance abuse condition;

Whereas only 8 percent of adults with a diagnosable mental disorder use mental health services;

Whereas a remaining 20 percent of those adults with a diagnosable mental disorder never receive timely treatment;

Whereas nearly 11 percent of children and adolescents receive mental health services from school systems;

Whereas the Surgeon General’s Report, “Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General”, emphasizes the fact that mental health is fundamental to overall health, that Americans need to better understand the importance of mental health, and that Americans should know mental health services are available and should seek mental health services when necessary;

Whereas the Surgeon General reported that mental disorders and illnesses are critical health concerns facing all segments of society;

Whereas education and information about mental health and mental health services are important to detection and treatment; and

Whereas Congress as an institution and Members of Congress individually are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about mental health: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3            (1) all Americans should find out more about  
4        mental health services in their communities and seek  
5        mental health treatment when necessary;

6            (2) the Secretary of Education should encour-  
7        age, establish, and promote a mental health cam-  
8        paign in elementary and secondary schools across  
9        the Nation; and

1           (3) the Federal Government has a responsibility  
2           to—

3                   (A) endeavor to raise awareness about  
4           mental health; and

5                   (B) continue to consider ways to improve  
6           access to, and the quality of, mental health  
7           services.

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