A Resolution proclaiming May 2020 to be Mental Health Awareness Month in Oklahoma.

WHEREAS, this year, National Mental Health Awareness Month coincides with one of the most complex and challenging periods in our Nation's recent history – combating the coronavirus pandemic. Not only has the virus caused immense physical suffering and loss for many people, it has also resulted in mental and emotional hardship. The stress and worry over the health and safety of family and friends, forced isolation and financial distress can all result in anxiety, depression, substance misuse and abuse and, tragically, even suicide. There is no question this is a difficult and unprecedented time for Americans. Yet, we know that there are ways to help people cope during these uncertain times, and we are committed to caring for those in need;
WHEREAS, mental illness can affect anyone and can develop at any time. Its effects spread well beyond the individual to family, friends and coworkers. As a Nation, we must fight the stigmas surrounding mental illness and empower those affected by emotional distress and their loved ones to seek care. We also recommit to strengthening our efforts to ensure every individual living with a mental illness, including children and young adults, our Nation’s fastest-growing population diagnosed with behavioral, mental or emotional issues, receives the care and treatment they need to enjoy the blessings of a fulfilling and productive life; and

WHEREAS, no American should ever feel alone. Let us recommit to lifting up our struggling friends, family members and neighbors with the touch of humanity. There is always the promise of recovery, healing and renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 57TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT May 2020 is hereby proclaimed to be Mental Health Awareness Month in Oklahoma.

DIRECT TO CALENDAR.