

**No. R-94. Senate concurrent resolution designating May 2021 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Vermont.**

(S.C.R.5)

By Senators Kitchel, Lyons and Sears,

By Representatives Lippert of Hinesburg, Batchelor of Derby, Black of Essex, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Donahue of Northfield, Houghton of Essex, Page of Newport City, Pugh of South Burlington and Vyhovsky of Essex,

*Whereas*, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a mental health crisis for children, youths, adults, and older Vermonters, and the psychological impact on health care providers could last for three years, and

*Whereas*, in a recent U.S. Census survey, approximately 40 percent of adults reported symptoms of anxiety, depressive disorder, or both, and

*Whereas*, Pathways Vermont's Support Line, which offers confidential mental health counseling, reports the number of calls rose from 7,000 received in 2019 to 10,000 in 2020, and

*Whereas*, Vermont's designated mental health agencies across the State provided services to an average of 816 callers per month in the last quarter of 2020, 52 percent of whom were children and youths, and fielded 5,510 calls for emergency crisis response and screenings during that time, and

*Whereas*, Vermont's mental health support community is performing a heroic task during the COVID-19 pandemic, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly designates May 2021 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Mental Health and to the State's associations of mental health professionals and volunteers.