
THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 209
Author: Elhawary (D), et al.
Introduced: 5/21/26
Vote: 21

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/28/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Behavioral Health Awareness Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes May 2026 as Behavioral Health Awareness Month in California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Mental illness is a health condition that impacts our emotional, psychological, and social well-being and affects how individuals think, feel, and act, including how they handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Behavioral health is the term that recognizes the combination of mental illness and substance use disorder that often impacts an individual.
- 2) Serious mental illness costs Americans approximately \$193.2 billion in lost earnings per year.
- 3) Nearly 20% of children and youth between 3 and 17 years of age, inclusive, in the United States, develop a mental, emotional, developmental, or substance use disorder each year.
- 4) Older adults are at increased risk for cooccurring behavioral health conditions such as depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders due to life transitions, grief, cognitive decline, and chronic medical conditions.
- 5) The integration of behavioral health care, including mental health and substance use treatment, into primary care, housing, and aging services is critical to

meeting the needs of California's diverse and growing adult and older adult populations.

This resolution recognizes May 2026 as Behavioral Health Awareness Month in California to enhance public awareness of behavioral health needs across the lifespan.

Related/Prior Legislation

SCR 175 (Weber Pierson, 2026) – In Senate Engrossing and Enrolling.

SCR 69 (Weber Pierson, Resolution Chapter 125, Statutes of 2025)

HR 42 (Elhawary, 2025) – Adopted in Assembly.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/8/26)

California Alliance of Child and Family Services

California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/8/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0, 5/28/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Calderon, DeMaio, Flora, Irwin, Jackson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171

6/10/26 16:17:31

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