

SENATE RESOLUTION

8642

By Senators Cleveland, Boehnke, Conway, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Hunt, Kauffman, Kuderer, Lovick, Torres, Valdez, Wagoner, and L. Wilson

1 WHEREAS, Mental Health America states that one in five Americans
2 struggle with a diagnosable mental health condition; and

3 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound negative effect
4 on the mental health of the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout the pandemic, communities have suffered with
6 various increases in behavioral health concerns like anxiety,
7 depression, and loneliness; and

8 WHEREAS, During the early days of mental health treatment,
9 asylums often restrained people who had mental illness with iron
10 chains and shackles around their ankles and wrists; and

11 WHEREAS, In the early 1950s, Mental Health America issued a call
12 to asylums across the country for their discarded chains and
13 shackles; and

14 WHEREAS, On April 13, 1953, Mental Health America melted down
15 these inhumane bindings and recast them into a sign of hope: the
16 Mental Health Bell;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
18 acknowledge that mental and behavioral health are genuine health
19 concerns impacting our communities; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate remain
21 committed to aiding and supporting those with mental health
22 struggles, as well as their families; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
2 lift up and celebrate all community-based behavioral health
3 service organizations throughout our state that have worked so
4 hard to help others, especially in this pandemic; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
6 acknowledge that the Bell of Hope serves as a powerful reminder
7 that the invisible chains of misunderstanding and discrimination
8 continue to bind people with mental illness; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
10 continue to lead toward improving mental health access and
11 understanding; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
13 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
14 Department of Health, the Governor of the State of Washington,
15 and the President of the United States.

16 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
17 do hereby certify that this is a true and
18 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8642,
19 adopted by the Senate
20 April 13, 2023

21 SARAH BANNISTER
22 Secretary of the Senate