

Whereas, the citizens of Easthampton value their health and mental health and that of their families; therefore, they are proud to support observances such as Children's Mental Health Week; and

Whereas, one in five children has a diagnosable mental health disorder and one-half of all lifetime instances of mental illness begin before age 14; and even some children and youth with the most intense needs and some who are insured may not receive services; and

Whereas, children and youth with mental health needs in elementary, middle and high school are more likely to be bullied, absent, suspended, expelled or fail to graduate; and

Whereas, learning to recognize the early warning signs of mental health needs and where to obtain the necessary support, assistance and treatment gives children and youth better opportunities to lead full and productive lives; and

Whereas, the participation and partnership of family members in the assessment and treatment of children and youth is essential to positive outcomes; and

Whereas, our nation's future depends on the health and well-being of its families and their children; and

Whereas, Children's Mental Health Week was developed by families of children with emotional, behavioral and mental health needs, to focus on the needs of their children and families; in celebrating this year's theme: "Supporting Families, Changing Futures" it is fitting to increase public awareness among all Easthampton citizens of this important issue;

Now, Therefore, I, Mayor Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor of Easthampton, do hereby proclaim May 6-12, 2018 as

***CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK***