

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

Whereas, Mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

Whereas, One in five Americans will experience a mental health diagnosis; and

Whereas, Prevention is an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health conditions; and

Whereas, There is a strong body of research that supports specific tools that all Americans can use to better handle challenges, and protect their health and well-being; and

Whereas, Mental health conditions are real and prevalent in our nation; and

Whereas, In Massachusetts approximately 222,000 adults aged 18 years or older (or about 4.2% of the population) experience a serious mental illness accessing services and supports through private insurance, MassHealth, or the Department of Mental Health; and

Whereas, An approximately 29,000 adults, youth, children, and families living with the most severe and persistent mental illnesses are served by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health providing services and supports that meet the mental health needs of individuals of all ages, enabling them to live, work and participate in their communities; and

Whereas, With effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

Whereas, Each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, law enforcement agency, organization, and citizen shares the burden of mental health challenges and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, to be,

## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

*And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.*

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of May, in the year two thousand and eighteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-first.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

  
CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

KARYN E. POLITO  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH



WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts