



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Thomas W. Bernard

**A PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 6-12, 2018,
TO BE CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**

April 24, 2018

WHEREAS the residents of the City of North Adams, Massachusetts, value their health and mental health and that of their families, and therefore 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 Awareness Week** was developed by families of children with emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs to focus on the needs of their children and families; and

WHEREAS this year's theme: **Supporting Families, Changing Futures** provides the opportunity to increase public awareness among all North Adams residents of this important issue;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas W. Bernard, mayor of the City of North Adams, do hereby proclaim May 6-12, 2018 as

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

And call upon all residents to mark this time by reflecting on this very important issue faced by so many children and families in our community, as well as on the providers and partners who offer guidance, support, resources, and hope.

Mayor