

*TOWN OF DRACUT  
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN*

*PROCLAMATION*

*Whereas, the citizens of Dracut 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, 17% of children and youth (ages 6-17) live with a mental health condition and 50% 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, recognizing the early warning signs of mental health needs and obtaining the necessary support, assistance and treatment gives children and youth better opportunities to lead full and productive lives at home, in schools, and in their communities; and*

*Whereas, the involvement 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: "Vision for Health and Happiness" it is fitting to increase public awareness among all Dracut citizens of this important issue;*

*Now, Therefore, I, Jesse Forcier, Chairman of the Dracut Board of Selectmen, do hereby proclaim May 3-9, 2020 as*

*CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK*

*FOR THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN*

*Jesse Forcier*  
*Jesse Forcier, Chairman*

