



H.RES. 1134 – SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1134 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA) on April 23, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1134 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 12, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1134 resolves that the House of Representatives:

1. Supports the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month in order to emphasize scientific facts and findings regarding mental health and to remove the stigma associated therewith;
2. Recognizes that mental well-being is equally as important as physical well-being for our citizens, our communities, our businesses, our economy, and our Nation;
3. Applauds the coalescing of national and community organizations in working to promote public awareness of mental health, and providing critical information and support to the people and families affected by mental illness;
4. Supports the findings of the President's Commission on Mental Health that the Nation's failure to prioritize mental health is a national tragedy; and
5. Encourages all organizations and health practitioners to use Mental Health Month as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness, ensure access to appropriate services, and support overall quality of life for those with mental illness.

BACKGROUND

In the U.S. today, 26.2 percent of Americans (57.7 million) over the age of 18 suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder. Mental disorders are the leading cause of disability among persons between ages 15 and 44 in both the U.S. and Canada. More serious and debilitating mental disorders afflict an estimated 6 percent of the population in the U.S.

President Bush established the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health in April of 2002. The purpose of establishing the Commission was to study the U.S. mental health care system and identify policies that could be implemented at the Federal, State, and local levels of government to promote and successfully integrate adults and children with serious mental disorders into the community and help them lead fuller lives. In July of 2003, the Committee reported their findings to the President, and made recommendations as to how to improve the mental health care infrastructure currently in place in the U.S.

[President's Commission on Mental Health Report](#)

[National Institute of Mental Health](#)

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