

State of Misconsin 2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4606/1 CMH:klm

## **2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 99**

February 9, 2016 – Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, C. LARSON, LASSA, VINEHOUT and HARRIS DODD, cosponsored by Representatives A. OTT, BERCEAU, MASON, MILROY, SINICKI, SPREITZER, SUBECK and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1	Relating to: Proclaiming November 2016 as Mental Health Screening Month in
2	Wisconsin.
3	Whereas, in any given year, more than 61.5 million Americans experience
4	mental illness; and
5	Whereas, mental illness is more common than cancer, diabetes, and heart
6	disease; and
7	Whereas, it has been established that between 70 percent and 90 percent of
8	persons with a mental illness experience a significant reduction of symptoms and an
9	improved quality of life when properly treated; and
10	Whereas, with adequate treatment, nearly 60 percent of Americans
11	experiencing a mental illness live productive lives; and
12	Whereas, there are often long delays between the first appearance of
13	diagnosable symptoms and when individuals seek help, and this delay can have
14	permanent consequences, including suicide, brain damage, and lost relationships;
15	and

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1	Whereas, the impact of untreated mental illness has strained our criminal
2	justice system, with around 20 percent of state and local prisoners found to have a
3	recent history of a mental health condition and 70 percent of youth in juvenile justice
4	systems experiencing at least one mental health condition; and
5	Whereas, it is irresponsible to continue to wait to treat mental illness through
6	the criminal justice system, nor is it appropriate to treat the mentally ill as
7	delinquents; and
8	Whereas, the legislature has an opportunity to engage the public about the
9	serious consequences of unchecked mental illness by bringing awareness to and
10	advocating for voluntary mental health screenings; and
11	Whereas, medical experts and mental health advocates have come together to
12	reduce barriers to access mental health treatments, provide mental health services
13	to at-risk individuals, and foster a national discussion regarding the benefits of
14	preventative mental health screenings; it is important that the legislature join this
15	national effort; now, therefore, be it
16	Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the legislature
17	hereby proclaims November 2016 as Mental Health Screening Month in Wisconsin.
18	(END)