



Legislation Text

File #: 79388, **Version:** 1

Fiscal Note

No fiscal impact.

Title

Proclaiming September 2023 to be National Recovery Month

Body

WHEREAS, mental health and substance use disorders affect all communities nationwide; and,

WHEREAS, 26% of Americans 18 and older suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year; and,

WHEREAS, there are approximately 20 million individuals in the United States with a substance use disorder; and,

WHEREAS, many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time; in particular, depressive illnesses tend to occur with substance use disorders and anxiety disorders; and,

WHEREAS, more than half of people with mental illness don't receive help for their disorders, often avoiding or delaying treatment due to concerns about being treated differently or fears of losing their jobs and livelihood; and,

WHEREAS, untreated drug and alcohol addiction contributes to tens of thousands of deaths every year and impacts the lives of many more, yet many with substance use disorders do not seek help due to the stigma that surrounds people with addiction; and,

WHEREAS, admitting one has a mental health disorder and/or a substance use disorder is often the first step in recovery, it is imperative we work together to remove the stigma that burdens our family members, friends, neighbors and loved ones who struggle with mental illness and addiction; and,

WHEREAS, in the first half of 2023, Dane County EMS responded to 626 suspected overdoses and 1,643 calls for behavior and mental health emergencies; and,

WHEREAS, nearly half of the traffic fatalities in Madison over the last five years involved a driver under the influence of drugs or alcohol; and,

WHEREAS, through National Recovery Month, people become more aware and able to recognize the signs of mental and substance use disorders, which can lead more people into needed treatment; and,

WHEREAS, there is no shame in asking for help; and,

WHEREAS, the Recovery Month observance continues to work to improve the lives of those affected by mental health and substance use disorders by raising awareness and educating communities about the effective services that are available; and,

WHEREAS, the focus of National Recovery Month this September is to celebrate all people that make the

journey of recovery possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Madison proclaims September 2023 as National Recovery Month and calls upon our community to observe this month with compelling programs and events that support this year's observance, the 34th anniversary of Recovery Month.

Sources:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/recovery-month>

<https://facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/>