

STATE OF KANSAS

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, Mental health is critical for the well-being and vitality of our families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Mental disorders, collectively, make mental illness the most prevalent health problem in America today. It is more common than cancer and lung and heart disease combined; and

WHEREAS, 18 million Americans are affected by depression on an annual basis – twice as many as are affected by coronary artery disease. A recent study examining six major medical conditions – including hypertension, diabetes, lung diseases, and arthritis – found only severe heart disease to be associated with more disability and interruption of daily functioning than depression; and

WHEREAS, Mental illness will strike one in five Americans in a given year regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, The high costs to society of untreated and undertreated mental illnesses cost over \$300 billion annually. This includes productivity losses of \$150 billion, health care costs of \$70 billion and other costs (e.g. criminal justice) of \$80 billion; and

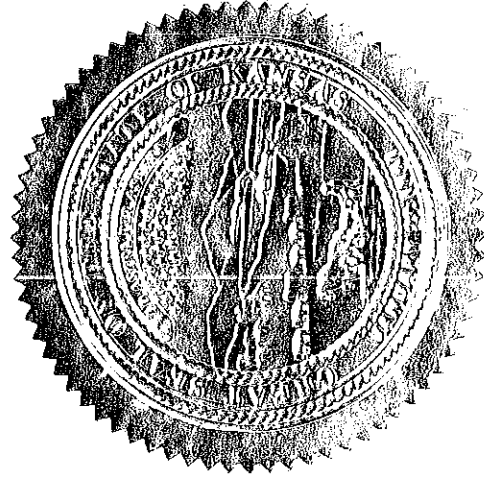
WHEREAS, Mental illnesses affect nearly 25 percent of Americans. Over 50 million adults – at least 22 percent of the U.S. adult population – suffer from mental disorders or substance abuse disorders on an annual basis:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim May 2008, as

Mental Health Month

in Kansas to raise community awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illness.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of the
State this 6th day of
May, A.D. 2008



BY THE GOVERNOR:

Kathleen Sebelius
For [Signature]
Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State