



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Virginians are important to the happiness, prosperity and well-being of our Commonwealth's families and communities, and it is important to recognize that mental health is a critical component of children's learning and general health; and

WHEREAS, prevalence estimates for children and adolescents with emotional disturbances range from 16 - 22 percent, and data indicates that only half (50.6) percent of children with emotional disturbances had received treatment within the past year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 100,000 Virginia children and adolescents (ages 9-17) have a serious emotional disturbance, with 66 percent of those exhibiting extreme impairment, and it is important to recognize that addressing the complex mental health needs of children, youth and families today is fundamental to the future of our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, childhood emotional disturbances persist into adulthood such that approximately 74 percent of 21 year olds with mental health needs had prior problems, and the cost of unaddressed mental illness to society is high in both human and fiscal terms; and

WHEREAS, mental illness, substance abuse, and behavioral challenges among children and young adults costs the United States \$247 billion a year in treatment and lost productivity alone; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to set aside a day to recognize private and public child-serving agencies in Virginia which work to improve services and meet the mental health needs of children, youth and families in our Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize May 9, 2012 as **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RECOGNIZED, that I urge all citizens, agencies and organizations interested in meeting every child's mental health needs to unite on that day in the observance of such activities as will acquaint the people of Commonwealth of Virginia with the fundamental necessity of a year-round program for children and youth with mental health needs and their families.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth