



**City of Traverse City Proclamation Declaring  
May 2022 as Youth Mental Health Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are real, common, and treatable, and people experiencing mental health challenges deserve support, compassion and care; mental health is no less important than physical health; and

WHEREAS, children in the United States and our community were experiencing mental and behavioral health challenges before the additional challenges of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, families have been deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with long-lasting consequences, and children are likely facing increased stress due to the changes, fear and uncertainty caused by illness, isolation, impending homelessness, and job and healthcare loss at rates never before seen; and

WHEREAS, children have been found to be at a higher risk of abuse or of witnessing domestic abuse during the pandemic, due to various factors including long-term school closures; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that more than 20 percent of youth have a diagnosed mental health disorder in the United States and that up to 1 out of 5 children experience a mental disorder in a given year; and

WHEREAS, the average age of early signs of mental illness is 14, when most students are entering high school; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 60 percent of students with emotional, behavioral and mental health disorders do not graduate from high school, according to the U.S. Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, National Survey of Drug Use and Health data shows mental health diagnoses, suicide rates, nonsuicidal self-injury such as cutting, and emergency room visits for students experiencing mental health issues are all on the rise; and