

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



## PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the mental health of every citizen is essential to the physical, emotional, and economic prosperity of our families, communities, and businesses in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are common and affect people of all ages, races, ethnicities, and income levels in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, untreated mental health conditions lead to higher rates of emergency department visits, hospitalizations, school dropouts, and suicides; and

WHEREAS, the success of our Commonwealth relies on raising awareness of disparities in mental health care and encouraging greater accessibility of services for underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, the unique experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Pennsylvanians and their respective communities include a history of extraordinary accomplishments but also higher rates of trauma and mental health disparities as a result of systemic oppression; and

WHEREAS, we strive to create equitable communities in the Commonwealth that support mental wellness by increasing access to treatment, educating ourselves about the effects of trauma, mental wellness, and mental health conditions, and encouraging fellow Pennsylvanians seeking to improve their mental health.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim July 2023 to be

### BIPOC MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

to honor the unique mental health experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color individuals and their communities. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to learn more about and recognize the importance of accessible and appropriate mental health services.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this first day of July two thousand twenty-three, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-eighth.

Governor Josh Shapiro