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**Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Lusk**

**Request to Designate May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month and  
Youth Mental Health Awareness Month**

Members of the Board,

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruptions to work and education, cancellations of extracurricular activities, loss of family income, health concerns and long-term illnesses, and deaths of loved ones. These factors have created traumas and stressors impacting many adults, youth, and children.

In the U.S., 17% of the youth experience a mental health disorder, 1 in 5 adults experience mental illness, and 1 in 20 adults experience serious mental illness that interferes with or limits major life activities. May is a time to understand mental health, recognize signs and symptoms, and obtain professional help.

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) was established to provide community health services and support for individuals with mental health issues and to promote awareness of positive mental health, well-being, and development for all residents in Fairfax County. In FY 2022, over 6,000 individuals received mental health treatment services with 24% aged 18 or under. Additionally, over 6,500 residents were served by CSB Emergency Services. Overall, residents received more than 8,200 crisis intervention and related services, including over 2,000 mobile crisis services in the community.

Therefore, we move without objection that the Board designate May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month and Youth Mental Health Awareness Month in Fairfax County and urge all individuals, families, groups, and organizations to work together in efforts to promote mental health thereby strengthening our communities. We also move that the Office of Public Affairs prepare a proclamation to be presented to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board at the May 9 Board Meeting.