

NEVADA GIRLS STATE  
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Memorializes the 2019 Session of the Nevada Legislature to enact legislation that will enact Nevada Students with Mental Illnesses (NSMI), a program that will screen students as young as first grade for mental illnesses: depression, OCD, anxiety, ADHD, ADD, bipolar depression, and more, in order to educate parents on the conditions, symptoms, and treatment options; ensuring the students get directed to proper help and care for their condition, as well as require mandatory full-time school psychologists, who will implement screenings on an opt-in basis.

WHEREAS, A condition that is gone unnoticed could be severely debilitating to a student and in severe cases life threatening to not only the individual but their peers almost 90% of untreated depression has lead to suicide; and

WHEREAS, A student could be viewed as shy and quiet and really be battling a tragic and secretive battle within themselves; and

WHEREAS, Parents and teachers often ignore mental illnesses and reduce them to bad, or abnormal behavior when in reality the student is suffering internally and nobody would ever suspect that's what's actually going on; and

WHEREAS, This program will diminish the taboo around mental illnesses and decrease people's harsh judgment of it so those affected can get better nearly 350 million people world wide suffer from depression that have been shunned into the dark because of it; and

WHEREAS, This program will require at least one mandatory full time school psychologists per 500 students; and

WHEREAS The screening will be a questionnaire that will dig deep into the roots of the mental illnesses and identify them for the psychologist to efficiently scan them for red flags; and

WHEREAS, Psychologists will then inform the teachers when red flags are found in the students screens but the psychologists are the only ones in possession of the data; and

WHEREAS, Students will have the choice to inform their parents of their potential condition (unless it's severe then medical professionals will be involved) of symptoms and getting children proper treatment so that they can thrive alongside their illnesses as shown by 60% - 70% of students that have OCD significantly improved when in therapy; and

WHEREAS, Screening and the detection of a mental illnesses, which leads to its treatment, is as important of the screening and detection of hearing or vision issues that when resolved have an equally positive impact on the health and success of the student; and

WHEREAS, Funding will be from a CDC grant; and

WHEREAS, Psychologists providing service and helping students who are suffering will be able to take the first step towards recovery; therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE GIRLS STATE OF NEVADA assembled in Carson City on July 29, 2018 that the 2019 Session of the Nevada Legislature is hereby memorialized to enact legislation that will create the program NSMI that will support students throughout school (especially transitional years) by implementing school psychologists or mental illness professionals along with many other state required duties.