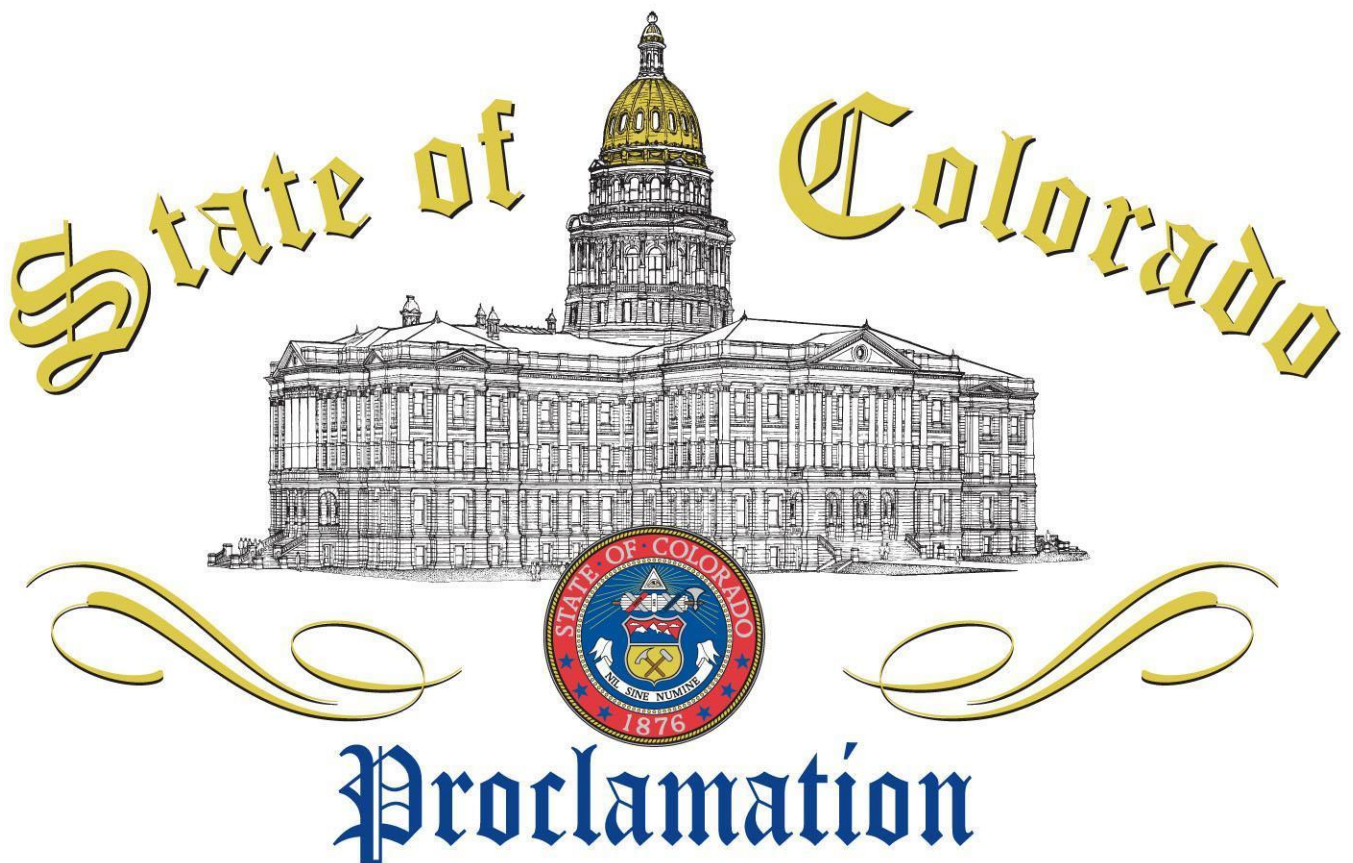




WHEREAS, the challenges Coloradans have faced in the past year highlight the importance of promoting mental wellbeing and developing an equitable, accountable, and effective behavioral healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, access to quality mental health care for historically and medically underserved populations, including rural populations, is recognized as a major need in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Behavioral Health Task Force recommended the establishment of a single state agency to be accountable for developing a holistic vision for Colorado's future behavioral health system; and

WHEREAS, the legislature established the Behavioral Health Administration to be the first Colorado state agency charged with co-creating a behavioral health continuum that is people-first, built to support family and chosen family members, and to center the experiences of historically-excluded communities; and

WHEREAS, the Behavioral Health Administration is fully empowered to positively and thoughtfully transform the delivery of mental health services in our state; and

WHEREAS, investments are being made to develop a behavioral health workforce that practices cultural humility, meeting people where they are; and

WHEREAS, this work of centering equity will not be siloed, but rather represent an interagency commitment to transformation; and

WHEREAS, other state departments have joined in this proclamation today, including the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the Department of Higher Education, and the Department of Public Health and Environment; and

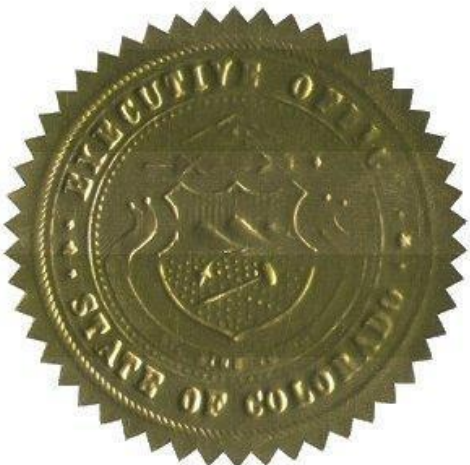
WHEREAS, these state agencies are joined by individuals and communities across Colorado, who are counting on a better tomorrow with high-quality, accessible and just behavioral health care for all Coloradans;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim May 2022 as

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of May, 2022



Jared Polis
Governor