

By: Staples

S.C.R. No. 37

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 2002, President George W. Bush announced the
3 creation of the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health; the
4 commission was charged to study the mental health delivery system
5 and make recommendations aimed at helping Americans overcome the
6 stigma surrounding mental illnesses, the unfair restrictions on
7 treatment and financial requirements associated with mental health
8 benefits in private health insurance policies, and the
9 fragmentation of service delivery; and

10 WHEREAS, The commission's final report, submitted to the
11 president in July 2003, presented a stark analysis of mental health
12 in the United States; the commission concluded that mental illness
13 is common and often untreated, that there is need for greater
14 coordination between mental health care providers and primary
15 health care providers, that the mental health system overwhelms
16 many consumers and underserves minority populations, and that there
17 is too lengthy a delay before advances in research reach actual
18 practice; and

19 WHEREAS, Regrettably, Texas is not immune to many of the
20 challenges to effective delivery of mental health care; in 2002,
21 the United States Department of Health and Human Services
22 identified 3.1 million adults and 1.2 million Texas children who
23 suffered from some form of diagnosable mental health disorder, yet
24 the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation was

1 able to serve only an estimated 26 percent of eligible children and
2 38 percent of eligible adults in that same year; and

3 WHEREAS, In response to the commission's findings, the
4 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the
5 United States Department of Health and Human Services developed the
6 Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant program to
7 support a range of infrastructure and service delivery improvements
8 and build a solid foundation for delivering and sustaining
9 effective mental health and related services; and

10 WHEREAS, Recognizing the need to provide high-quality mental
11 health care services and eliminate the current fragmented system of
12 delivery for those services, Governor Rick Perry has applied for
13 the Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant; this
14 endeavor is in keeping with the legislature's dedication to
15 maximizing all available resources to provide the best possible
16 care to the citizens of this state, and it is appropriate to support
17 the governor's effort at this time; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
19 express its support for the governor's application to the United
20 States Department of Health and Human Services for the Substance
21 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Mental Health
22 Transformation State Incentive Grant.