

By: Staples

S.C.R. No. 37

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Regrettably, Texas is not immune to many of the
19 challenges to effective delivery of mental health care; in 2002,
20 the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
21 identified 3.1 million adults and 1.2 million Texas children who
22 suffered from some form of diagnosable mental health disorder, yet
23 the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation was
24 able to serve only an estimated 26 percent of eligible children and

1 38 percent of eligible adults in that same year; and

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

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

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