

1-1 By: Staples S.C.R. No. 37  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed May 16, 2005; May 16, 2005, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services;  
1-4 May 20, 2005, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,  
1-5 Nays 0; May 20, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, In 2002, President George W. Bush announced the  
1-8 creation of the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health; the  
1-9 commission was charged to study the mental health delivery system  
1-10 and make recommendations aimed at helping Americans overcome the  
1-11 stigma surrounding mental illnesses, the unfair restrictions on  
1-12 treatment and financial requirements associated with mental health  
1-13 benefits in private health insurance policies, and the  
1-14 fragmentation of service delivery; and

1-15 WHEREAS, The commission's final report, submitted to the  
1-16 president in July 2003, presented a stark analysis of mental health  
1-17 in the United States; the commission concluded that mental illness  
1-18 is common and often untreated, that there is need for greater  
1-19 coordination between mental health care providers and primary  
1-20 health care providers, that the mental health system overwhelms  
1-21 many consumers and underserves minority populations, and that there  
1-22 is too lengthy a delay before advances in research reach actual  
1-23 practice; and

1-24 WHEREAS, Regrettably, Texas is not immune to many of the  
1-25 challenges to effective delivery of mental health care; in 2002,  
1-26 the United States Department of Health and Human Services  
1-27 identified 3.1 million adults and 1.2 million Texas children who  
1-28 suffered from some form of diagnosable mental health disorder, yet  
1-29 the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation was  
1-30 able to serve only an estimated 26 percent of eligible children and  
1-31 38 percent of eligible adults in that same year; and

1-32 WHEREAS, In response to the commission's findings, the  
1-33 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the  
1-34 United States Department of Health and Human Services developed the  
1-35 Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant program to  
1-36 support a range of infrastructure and service delivery improvements  
1-37 and build a solid foundation for delivering and sustaining  
1-38 effective mental health and related services; and

1-39 WHEREAS, Recognizing the need to provide high-quality mental  
1-40 health care services and eliminate the current fragmented system of  
1-41 delivery for those services, Governor Rick Perry has applied for  
1-42 the Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant; this  
1-43 endeavor is in keeping with the legislature's dedication to  
1-44 maximizing all available resources to provide the best possible  
1-45 care to the citizens of this state, and it is appropriate to support  
1-46 the governor's effort at this time; now, therefore, be it

1-47 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
1-48 express its support for the governor's application to the United  
1-49 States Department of Health and Human Services for the Substance  
1-50 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Mental Health  
1-51 Transformation State Incentive Grant.

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