

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5032

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commending the positive approach and best practices of the Crisis Intervention Team program and encouraging the development of active crisis intervention team programs statewide.

WHEREAS, Mental illness is a serious medical condition that affects children, adolescents, adults and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, In response to the need for law enforcement officers to better understand and resolve issues arising from persons with mental illness, 1,250 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs have been developed nationally and in the Kansas counties of Reno, Lyon, Johnson, Shawnee, Sedgwick and Wyandotte; and

WHEREAS, More than 900 law enforcement officers statewide have been trained by local CIT councils and the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, including officers of the Capitol Police, Kansas Department of Corrections, as well as School Resource Officers and local jail and dispatch personnel; and

WHEREAS, CIT training is a 40-hour curriculum, based on the Memphis Police Department Crisis Intervention Team model of best practices for law enforcement intervention with persons who have a mental illness;

WHEREAS, The CIT program trains law enforcement officers to effectively and humanely intervene and assist in situations involving children and adults who find themselves in psychiatric crisis; and

WHEREAS, Implementing the CIT program on a statewide basis means building strong working partnerships between law enforcement agencies and mental health resources in the community, which enable law enforcement and mental health agencies to collaborate to identify appropriate and long-term solutions for persons with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, The CIT program is proven to reduce the likelihood of physical confrontation and use of force in intervention situations, improve officer safety and decrease injuries to law enforcement officers involved in crisis intervention; and

WHEREAS, The CIT program decreases the use of arrest and detention of persons experiencing a mental health crisis by providing these persons with better access to timely and appropriate mental health treatment and community services; and

WHEREAS, The CIT program provides an immediate response to crisis intervention situations by specially trained law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, Many local jails now operate as the largest mental health institutions in their community and CIT programs reduce the number of nonviolent persons with mental illness in local jails as a result of minor offenses; and

WHEREAS, Most of those incarcerated with mental illness also have alcohol and drug problems and are categorized as having “co-occurring disorders”; and

WHEREAS, Such persons are better served through treatment of their mental illness in the community than by being detained in jail, thereby resulting in significant cost savings for both police and jails, while providing treatment that will reduce the likelihood of recidivism; and

WHEREAS, The CIT program promotes good will between law enforcement and members of the community; and

WHEREAS, Not all law enforcement agencies in Kansas have CIT-trained officers; and not all CIT-trained officers are connected to a CIT program that is implemented in partnership with mental health providers: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That the Legislature of the State of Kansas recognizes the outstanding leadership of the Crisis Intervention Team programs and CIT as a model of best practice for law enforcement intervention with persons who have a mental illness; and

Be it further resolved: That the Legislature encourages law enforcement agencies to lead the effort in partnership with community mental health centers and local advocacy organizations representing individuals living with mental illnesses and their family members to establish local and regional CIT programs.

I hereby certify that the above CONCURRENT RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Adopted by the SENATE _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.