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## House Concurrent Resolution No. 5005

By Representative Myers  
(By Request)

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10 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Kansas Legislature to  
11 appropriate increased funding for the Department of Social and Re-  
12 habilitation Services for the purpose of providing adequate funding to  
13 enable community health centers to provide adequate services for  
14 those people who formerly received such services from state hospitals  
15 which have been closed and to enact legislation providing parity in  
16 health insurance coverage for persons suffering from mental illness.

17 WHEREAS, Mental illness is the second most frequent cause of dis-  
18 ability in industrialized nations; and

19 WHEREAS, Each year one in five Americans experience or suffer  
20 from some type of mental disorder or serious mental illness including,  
21 but not limited to, schizophrenia, anxiety disorder or clinical depression;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Such severe mental illnesses are treatable disorders of  
24 the brain; and

25 WHEREAS, The State of Kansas has closed some of its hospitals  
26 which provided treatment for the mentally ill; and

27 WHEREAS, Not all of the people who formerly were treated for men-  
28 tal illness by these hospitals which were closed have been assimilated into  
29 the local community mental health centers; and

30 WHEREAS, Some of these people who formerly were treated for  
31 mental illness have been housed in local jails because there was no other  
32 place for them to go; and

33 WHEREAS, The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services  
34 does not receive the funding necessary to provide an adequate level of  
35 care and treatment for the people who formerly were treated for mental  
36 illness; and

37 WHEREAS, The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services  
38 needs additional funding to provide an adequate level of care and treat-  
39 ment for the people who formerly were treated for mental illness; and

40 WHEREAS, Many health insurance policies discriminate against per-  
41 sons afflicted with severe mental illness by imposing more restrictions on  
42 coverage for the treatment of mental illness compared to the coverage  
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1 provided for other medical problems; and  
2 WHEREAS, At least 28 states have enacted legislation concerning  
3 health insurance that provides some form of mental health parity; and  
4 WHEREAS, During the 2000 legislative session, the Kansas Legisla-  
5 ture considered three bills concerning mental health parity, Senate Bill  
6 No.160, Senate Bill No. 547 and House Bill No. 2765, but none were  
7 passed; and  
8 WHEREAS, The time has come for the State of Kansas to join the  
9 majority of states by enacting legislation concerning health insurance to  
10 provide mental health parity for its citizens: Now, therefore;  
11 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*  
12 *the Senate concurring therein:* That the Kansas Legislature increase  
13 funding for the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for the  
14 purpose of providing adequate funding to enable community mental  
15 health centers to provide adequate services for those people who formerly  
16 received such services from state hospitals which have been closed; and  
17 *Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas Legislature enact legislation  
18 to provide health insurance parity for persons with mental illness.

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