ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 71

By: Monson of the Senate

and

Anthony of the House

A Concurrent Resolution creating the Legislative Task Force on Parity for Mental Illness Insurance Coverage; stating membership; designating appointment of co-chairs; requiring first meeting by certain date; stating quorum; requiring certain report by certain date; requiring filing of report with certain officers of Legislature; providing for staffing and travel reimbursement; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, millions of Americans suffer from mental illness resulting from biologically based chemical disorders and are unable to function as productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is often not covered by health insurance to the extent that other illnesses are covered; and

WHEREAS, as a result of lower health insurance coverage, many people with mental illness are either unable to obtain adequate treatment or are required to pay heavy out-of-pocket expenses, large copayments or excessive deductibles; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for a study to determine the cost associated with treatment of persons with mental illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT there is hereby created a twenty-two-member legislative task force to study the issue of health insurance coverage for mental illness resulting from biologically based chemical disorders,

including the cost of such coverage with special emphasis on parity of cost with that of other health care insurance, the extent of such coverage, the savings to society as a result of such coverage, and any other pertinent issues. The task force shall be named the Legislative Task Force on Parity for Mental Illness Insurance Coverage. The membership of the Task Force shall be as follows:

1. Three members of the Oklahoma State Senate, to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

2. Three members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

3. Four members who suffer from mental illness or who have family members who suffer from mental illness, two to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

4. Four members who are representatives of the business community, two to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

5. Four members who are representatives of the health insurance industry, health maintenance organizations or managed care, two to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

6. Four members who are psychiatrists or psychologists, two to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and two to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each designate a co-chair from among the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, who have been named to the Task Force.

The co-chairs of the Task Force shall call the first meeting of the Task Force by September 1, 1996. A majority of members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

The Task Force shall file a written report of its findings and recommendations with the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 7, 1997.

The Senate and the House of Representatives shall provide such staff support as is required by the Task Force.

THAT members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for serving on the Task Force but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

2. Nonlegislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed by their respective agencies for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

3. Members of the Task Force who are not otherwise officers or employees of the state shall be reimbursed by the Legislative Service Bureau in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Insurance Commissioner, the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Council, and the Oklahoma Association for the Mentally Ill.

Adopted by the Senate the 28th day of May, 1996.

President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 1996.

Speaker of the House of Representatives