ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 48

By: Stipe of the Senate

and

Fields of the House

A Concurrent Resolution authorizing the Department of Corrections to construct a special care unit; expressing legislative intent to fund staffing and operation of a special care unit; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the prison population within the State of Oklahoma has consistently increased over the past twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the average age of the inmates continues to increase as inmates serve longer sentences; and

WHEREAS, elderly and disabled inmates pose significantly different needs within the prison system from other inmates, and the current facilities were not designed to meet some of these needs; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognized these inmates' special needs when it enacted Section 509.6 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes authorizing the Department of Corrections to establish a special care unit for elderly or disabled inmates; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections has been able to allocate sufficient funds from its existing appropriated budget to apply to construction of such unit, but the Department does not have sufficient funds to begin or continue operation of such unit once constructed, and therefore, has not constructed a special care unit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Department of Corrections is hereby authorized to construct a facility as authorized in Section 509.6 of Title 57 of

the Oklahoma Statutes from the funds currently available to the Department of Corrections from its appropriated budget.

THAT the Legislature intends to provide sufficient funding through the Department of Corrections appropriated budget beginning in this session to allow the Department to staff and operate the special care unit as provided by Section 509.6 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Director of the Department of Corrections and the members of the State Board of Corrections.

Adopted by the Senate the 18th day of March, 2002.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 2002.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives