

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION HR1016

By: Dank

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution requesting that the Commissioner and State Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services reduce certain compensation levels; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the State Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services are responsible for the administration of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma has vested authority in the Board and the Commissioner to hire and establish compensation for certain classes of employees within the Department; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives is responsible to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma to ensure the judicious use of state funds and to maximize the judicious use of federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services has created four new administrative positions: three deputy commissioners whose salaries are set at \$95,000.00 annually and a chief operating officer whose annual salary is \$110,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recognizes the importance of fair and equitable compensation to attract highly skilled and educated leaders to public sector employment; and

WHEREAS, the need for increased behavioral health and substance abuse services for low income adults and children has never been greater; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the salaries set for the Department's deputy directors and chief operating officer are exorbitant when compared to similar positions in other state agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the House of Representatives requests the State Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to consider reducing the compensation levels of the deputy commissioners and the chief operating officer in a manner consistent with similar positions in agencies with comparable duties and responsibilities.

THAT in light of other pressing funding needs such as the Youth Services Drug Court, the House of Representatives requests the Board and Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to halt any plans that may be underway to hire assistant deputy commissioners, directors, coordinators or fill other similar executive level positions.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the State Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and to the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

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