

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 CONCURRENT
3 RESOLUTION NO. 12

By: Rosino of the Senate

and

West (Josh) and Moore of
the House

7 A Concurrent Resolution removing the Commissioner of
8 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;
9 specifying management and budget issues within the
10 agency; citing authority and method of removal; and
11 providing for delivery.

11 WHEREAS, in January of 2024, Governor J. Kevin Stitt made the
12 appointment of Victoria (Allie) Friesen as the new Commissioner of
13 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; and

14 WHEREAS, Commissioner Friesen has the duty to oversee the
15 delivery of all prevention, treatment, and education of mental
16 health and substance abuse in the state and to ensure that the
17 agency performs those services while having a budgetary and
18 expenditure methodology that serves not only those Oklahoma citizens
19 in need, but the employees and providers that deliver them; and

20 WHEREAS, after almost one and a half years in service as
21 Commissioner, Commissioner Friesen and the Department of Mental
22 Health and Substance Abuse Services are now facing a budgetary
23 shortfall of approximately Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000.00);
24 and

1 WHEREAS, the Senate and the House of Representatives both formed
2 a "Select Committee to Review Mental Health Finances" to determine
3 the totality of the financial mismanagement, address issues of
4 accountability, and assess what amount of funds will be required to
5 meet the needs of the agency employee pay and citizen services in
6 the legislative appropriations process.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
8 OF THE 60TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 CONCURRING THEREIN:

10 THAT the Senate and the House of Representatives have lost
11 confidence in Commissioner Friesen to identify, oversee, and manage
12 the critical services delivered by the Department of Mental Health
13 and Substance Abuse Services.

14 THAT pursuant to Section 2-101 of Title 43A of the Oklahoma
15 Statutes, the Legislature reserves the authority to remove the
16 Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services by a two-
17 thirds vote of the members elected to and constituting each chamber
18 of the Legislature.

19 THAT this resolution hereby constitutes legislative approval for
20 the immediate removal of Commissioner Friesen pursuant to Section 2-
21 101 of Title 43A of the Oklahoma Statutes.

22 THAT a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Governor and
23 the Secretary of State.

Adopted by the Senate the 29th day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives