



SR0936

LRB103 40347 LAW 72587 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Every day, first responders are required to
3 manage traumatic events, from fires to shootings, and these
4 events have the potential to leave lasting effects on their
5 mental health; and

6 WHEREAS, The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
7 Administration (SAMHSA) revealed that 75% of police officers
8 have reported experiencing a traumatic event; that same source
9 found that 30% of first responders develop behavioral health
10 conditions, including depression and post-traumatic stress
11 disorder (PTSD), which is a third higher than the general
12 population; and

13 WHEREAS, The Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology
14 reported that police suicide rates are 69% higher than the
15 general population, and more police die by suicide than in the
16 line of duty; and

17 WHEREAS, Medical costs can serve as a deterrent to
18 obtaining proper care, with the National Council for Mental
19 Wellbeing revealing that 42% of the U.S. population views
20 costs as a barrier to pursuing mental health services; and

21 WHEREAS, The Center for American Progress presented that

1 the cost of psychotherapy ranges averaging from \$100 to \$200
2 per session, and insurance companies can pass up to 40% of
3 treatments costs on to patients; for weekly therapy sessions,
4 this can easily add up to over \$2,000 a year in out-of-pocket
5 costs for just one family member; and

6 WHEREAS, First responders should not have to face barriers
7 to obtain the treatment they need to manage the resulting
8 trauma they experienced while on the job, and making mental
9 health care more affordable better helps people receive the
10 proper care they need; and

11 WHEREAS, Research has shown that access to treatment not
12 only improves a first responder's ability to do their job but
13 also provides the public with first responders who are able to
14 execute their duties in optimal form; and

15 WHEREAS, Current legislation under consideration by the
16 Illinois General Assembly is seeking to remove cost-sharing
17 requirements for mental health treatment, including insurance
18 deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance for police officers,
19 firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and
20 veterans; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the U.S.

1 Congress to support the mental health of first responders and
2 to create and pass legislation to remove existing barriers to
3 mental health treatment for individuals who respond to
4 emergencies for the benefit of all; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
6 delivered to all members of the Illinois Congressional
7 Delegation.