

By Senator Hill

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Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

A resolution regarding Florida's residents with mental illnesses.

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are no-fault biologically-based brain disorders, and are among the most commonly occurring illnesses in the United States and throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, Floridians who suffer from mental illnesses are subject to stigma, misunderstanding, and irrational fears and prejudices from society at large, and

WHEREAS, only one-third of Florida's residents who have mental illnesses receive treatment due to lack of resources, lack of access, or other social barriers, and

WHEREAS, untreated mental illness increases a person's risk of becoming homeless or incarcerated, and

WHEREAS, these circumstances have led to Florida's jails becoming the state's largest category of institutions housing people with mental illnesses, and

WHEREAS, Florida has a duty to its residents with mental illnesses to do everything possible to alleviate their suffering and protect their rights, and

WHEREAS, solutions to these challenges can be found if the Senate plays a leadership role in forming community coalitions to find the answers presented by those with mental illnesses, including finding ways to improve access to treatment and creating alternatives to needless incarceration,

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

1           That the Florida Senate will lead efforts to seek new  
2 sources of funding, adopt the best practices for alternatives  
3 to incarceration, and promote increased access to care for  
4 Florida's residents with mental illnesses on a  
5 community-by-community basis.  
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