



SR0936 Enrolled

LRB103 40347 LAW 72587 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION 936

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

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

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

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

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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; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the U.S.
17 Congress to support the mental health of first responders and
18 to create and pass legislation to remove existing barriers to
19 mental health treatment for individuals who respond to
20 emergencies for the benefit of all; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
22 delivered to all members of the Illinois Congressional

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1 Delegation.