

## House Concurrent Resolution No. 5032

By Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

2-1

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commending the positive approach  
2 and best practices of the Crisis Intervention Team program and  
3 encouraging the development of active crisis intervention team  
4 programs statewide.

5  
6 WHEREAS, Mental illness is a serious medical condition that affects  
7 children, adolescents, adults and the elderly; and

8 WHEREAS, In response to the need for law enforcement officers to  
9 better understand and resolve issues arising from persons with mental  
10 illness, 1,250 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs have been  
11 developed nationally and in the Kansas counties of Reno, Lyon, Johnson,  
12 Shawnee, Sedgwick and Wyandotte; and

13 WHEREAS, More than 900 law enforcement officers statewide have  
14 been trained by local CIT councils and the Kansas Law Enforcement  
15 Training Center, including officers of the Capitol Police, Kansas  
16 Department of Corrections, as well as School Resource Officers and local  
17 jail and dispatch personnel; and

18 WHEREAS, CIT training is a 40-hour curriculum, based on the  
19 Memphis Police Department Crisis Intervention Team model of best  
20 practices for law enforcement intervention with persons who have a  
21 mental illness;

22 WHEREAS, The CIT program trains law enforcement officers to  
23 effectively and  
24 humanely intervene and assist in situations involving children and adults  
25 who find themselves in psychiatric crisis; and

26 WHEREAS, Implementing the CIT program on a statewide basis  
27 means building strong working partnerships between law enforcement  
28 agencies and mental health resources in the community, which enable law  
29 enforcement and mental health agencies to collaborate to identify  
30 appropriate and long-term solutions for persons with mental illness; and

31 WHEREAS, The CIT program is proven to reduce the likelihood of  
32 physical confrontation and use of force in intervention situations, improve  
33 officer safety and decrease injuries to law enforcement officers involved in  
34 crisis intervention; and

35 WHEREAS, The CIT program decreases the use of arrest and detention  
36 of persons experiencing a mental health crisis by providing these persons

1 with better access to timely and appropriate mental health treatment and  
2 community services; and

3 WHEREAS, The CIT program provides an immediate response to  
4 crisis intervention situations by specially trained law enforcement officers;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Many local jails now operate as the largest mental health  
7 institutions in their community and CIT programs reduce the number of  
8 nonviolent persons with mental illness in local jails as a result of minor  
9 offenses; and

10 WHEREAS, Most of those incarcerated with mental illness also have  
11 alcohol and drug problems and are categorized as having "co-occurring  
12 disorders"; and

13 WHEREAS, Such persons are better served through treatment of their  
14 mental illness in the community than by being detained in jail, thereby  
15 resulting in significant cost savings for both police and jails, while  
16 providing treatment that will reduce the likelihood of recidivism; and

17 WHEREAS, The CIT program promotes good will between law  
18 enforcement and members of the community; and

19 WHEREAS, Not all law enforcement agencies in Kansas have CIT-  
20 trained officers; and not all CIT-trained officers are connected to a CIT  
21 program that is implemented in partnership with mental health providers:  
22 Now, therefore,

23 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*  
24 *the Senate concurring therein: That the Legislature of the State of Kansas*  
25 *recognizes the outstanding leadership of the Crisis Intervention Team*  
26 *programs and CIT as a model of best practice for law enforcement*  
27 *intervention with persons who have a mental illness; and*

28 *Be it further resolved:* That the Legislature encourages law  
29 enforcement agencies to lead the effort in partnership with community  
30 mental health centers and local advocacy organizations representing  
31 individuals living with mental illnesses and their family members to  
32 establish local and regional CIT programs; and

33 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of  
34 Representatives shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the  
35 Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Sheriffs Association,  
36 the Kansas Peace Officers Association, the Kansas Law Enforcement  
37 Training Center, and the Secretaries of Social and Rehabilitation Services  
38 and the Kansas Department of Corrections.

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