

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 SENATE CONCURRENT

4 RESOLUTION 12

By: Rosino of the Senate

5 and

6 West (Josh) of the House

7

8 AS INTRODUCED

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

12

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

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

23 WHEREAS, after almost one and a half years in service as
24 Commissioner, Commissioner Friesen and the Department of Mental

1 Health and Substance Abuse Services are now facing a budgetary
2 shortfall of approximately Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000.00);
3 and

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

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
11 OF THE 60TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 CONCURRING THEREIN:

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

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

22 THAT this resolution hereby constitutes legislative approval for
23 the immediate removal of Commissioner Friesen pursuant to Section 2-
24 101 of Title 43A of the Oklahoma Statutes.

1 THAT a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Governor and
2 the Secretary of State.
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