

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 36—Committee on
Human Resources and Facilities

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Expressing the support of the Nevada Legislature for the four long-term strategic plans developed by the Department of Human Resources concerning the health care needs of the residents of Nevada.

WHEREAS, On June 13, 2001, the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill No. 513 which provided funding for the development of four long-term strategic plans concerning the health care needs of the residents of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The strategic plans to be developed were to address the basic needs of Nevada's senior residents, health care services in rural areas of Nevada, services to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, and rates paid by the State to contracted providers of health care services; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Human Resources established a task force to facilitate the development of each of the four strategic plans and a steering committee to provide guidance and coordinate the overall efforts of each task force; and

WHEREAS, Each task force conducted public hearings in many locations in this state to ensure information was received from all interested persons, including, without limitation, senior residents, rural Nevadans, persons with disabilities and their representatives, governmental representatives and representatives of persons who provide institutional and community-based services to persons with disabilities, and developed each long-term strategic plan only after testimony and information presented by the interested parties had been fully considered; and

WHEREAS, The diligent work of the Senior Services Task Force in gathering comments and information from over 2,000 Nevada seniors, service providers and caregivers resulted in a comprehensive strategic plan for this state's senior residents which focuses on goals relating to independent living, engagement in the occupation of life, improvement of health, accessibility and affordability of housing, availability of transportation services, and receipt of needed benefits, services and support; and

WHEREAS, The perseverance of the Nevada Rural Health Care Task Force in holding stakeholder meetings with approximately 200 persons, conducting interviews with those persons having a particular interest in rural health care and analyzing the data from over 250 surveys received from rural residents resulted in a long-range strategic plan to address health care services in the rural areas of Nevada, which focuses on goals relating to planning and

coordination of rural health care, delivery of services to rural areas, sustainable financing of insurance coverage and development of adequate funding, and utilization and expansion of resources in rural communities; and

WHEREAS, The assiduous work of the Task Force on Disability and its subcommittees and the technical advisory group created to address issues relating to the *Olmstead* decision, *Olmstead v. L.C. ex rel. Zimring*, 119 S. Ct. 2176 (1999), resulted in a comprehensive strategic plan for persons with disabilities which focuses on goals to ensure the availability and accessibility of services for persons with disabilities, to support the ability of persons with disabilities to lead independent and active lives within their communities, to continue the efforts of this state to provide appropriate community-based services for persons with disabilities, and to ensure that persons with disabilities receive the services they are legally entitled to receive; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the goals identified by the Task Force on Disability to enable persons with disabilities to achieve maximum mainstream personal and economic independence, testimony from various advocates, agencies, organizations and persons with diverse interests, perspectives and expertise concerning the provision of services to persons with disabilities indicated that the allocation of 10 percent of the tobacco settlement funds that are designated to be used to address the needs of persons with disabilities should continue to be made available in the Fund for a Healthy Nevada without interruption to focus on:

1. Providing home and environmental modifications and technology to allow community access, independent living or return from institutional care;
2. Providing permanent funding for the State's Positive Behavioral Support Program; and
3. Ensuring that families providing primary care to a severely disabled family member receive respite; and

WHEREAS, The arduous work of the Provider Rates Task Force in gathering information from representatives of county agencies, providers of certain health care services, persons who access the services and their families, as well as state personnel, resulted in the development of standardized rates for a variety of services, including, without limitation, community support services for persons with a disability or a mental illness, the elderly, community triage centers, supported living arrangements, targeted case management, personal assistance services, fiscal intermediary services, children and adult mental health rehabilitative services and therapies; and

WHEREAS, Based upon testimony presented from those persons who participated in providing input concerning the four areas of

health care services on which the long-term strategic plans focused, permanent long-term funding is critically needed for the continued establishment and development of mental health services, including, without limitation, services for persons who are mentally ill and mentally retarded, and services for the prevention of alcohol abuse and alcoholism; and

WHEREAS, Each of the four long-term strategic health care plans identified goals and objectives or recommendations relating to the area studied and outlined strategies to carry out the goals, objectives and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature recognizes the importance of these long-term strategic plans in serving as invaluable guides in addressing the health care needs of the residents of this state; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature further recognizes that each strategic plan is a blueprint to use in budgeting for health care services in this state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the Nevada Legislature express their support for the four long-term strategic plans developed by the Department of Human Resources concerning senior services, rural health care, persons with disabilities and provider rates; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the Legislature acknowledge the recommendations provided in these long-term strategic plans concerning the health care needs of the residents of this state, as well as the recommendations concerning funding that were provided as a result of testimony presented during the preparation of these plans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Director of the Department of Human Resources.