

NEVADA GIRLS STATE
ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Memorializes the 2015 session of the Nevada Legislature to increase funding for the addition and improvements of mental health facilities that are open twenty-four hours to provide adequate and timely care to the mentally ill, to alleviate strain on the prison system, and to alleviate the debilitating stigma of mental illness;

WHEREAS; At present, there is only one mental hospital in the state of Nevada having only has seventy-one beds; and

WHEREAS; As a result, over the past five years, Nevada's psychiatric hospital has put hundreds of mentally ill patients on Greyhound buses and sent them to cities and towns across America, a practice known as "patient dumping"; and

WHEREAS; In recent years, as Nevada has slashed funding for mental health services, the number of mentally ill patients being bused out of southern Nevada has steadily risen, growing sixty-six percent from 2009 to 2012; and

WHEREAS; The health conditions of victims of "patient dumping" is a violation of patients' safeties and can exacerbate in the process, considering the patient must endure lengthy bus rides; and

WHEREAS; The necessity for action to be taken on a state level cannot be ignored and is imperative for the well-being of mentally ill citizens; and

WHEREAS; There are many mentally ill citizens who are both free and incarcerated; and

WHEREAS; Sixteen percent of inmates are mentally ill; and

WHEREAS; The only way the social stigma surrounding mental illness can be mitigated is to improve treatment statewide; and

WHEREAS; The Legislature has the responsibility to help people heal and enable the ones who may never heal to live with dignity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GIRLS STATE OF NEVADA, assembled in Carson City on July 5, 2013, that the 2015 session of the Nevada Legislature is hereby memorialize to enact legislation that will provide sufficient care to the mentally ill through the improvement of current faculties and addition of readily accessible twenty-four hour facilities.