

Committee: H&HR

RESOLUTION

Safeguard Elderly Citizen's Right of Self-Determination

A RESOLUTION TO urge that any legislation enacted to correct deficiencies in Adult Protective Services clearly acknowledge that each elderly citizen's right of self-determination is extremely important to that individual and that agents of Texas government must be cognizant of and diligent in safeguarding that right, and that selected senior citizens be consulted when assessments of competency are made for elderly citizens suffering from self-neglect.

WHEREAS, abuse and neglect suffered by elderly Texas citizens, as has been highlighted by deficiencies in Adult Protective Services (APS) in the El Paso area, is a serious, extensive and unacceptable state-wide problem; and

WHEREAS, a legislative sub-committee has been studying apparent deficiencies in the state's responses to reported cases of abuse and neglect; and the Legislature is likely to offer new legislation this session which mandates corrective actions in APS responses and approaches to abuse and neglect of elderly citizens, and

WHEREAS, while diligently seeking to correct instances of apparent self-neglect by an elderly citizen, there is great potential for a government worker to give too little attention to that elderly citizen's precious right of self-determination; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That, the 10th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourage and strongly recommend that the 79th Texas Legislature enact appropriate legislation to correct Adult Protective Services deficiencies in responding to abuse and neglect of elderly citizens, but that any such legislation clearly articulate the extreme importance of safeguarding each elderly citizen's right to personal freedom and self-determination, and include the requirement that other selected senior citizens be consulted when assessments of competency are made for elderly citizens suffering from self-neglect.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of September, 2004, by

the _____ Committee,

Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of September, 2004, by

by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Chris Kyker, Speaker

ATTEST:

Al Campbell, Secretary