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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 975 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, CIRESI, CRUZ, A. DAVIS, DEASY,  
DELLOSO, DeLUCA, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, HANBIDGE, HILL-  
EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, KENYATTA, KORTZ, MADDEN, McNEILL, MURT,  
PASHINSKI, READSHAW, ROZZI, SANCHEZ, SCHWEYER, SHUSTERMAN,  
THOMAS, WEBSTER, WILLIAMS AND YOUNGBLOOD, AUGUST 31, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, AUGUST 31, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to take action in coordination with the  
2 Insurance Department to waive in-network cost-sharing  
3 provisions for mental health service for frontline essential  
4 workers.

5 WHEREAS, In response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) and its  
6 introduction into this Commonwealth, Governor Tom Wolf signed a  
7 declaration of emergency disaster on March 6, 2020, and ordered  
8 the closure of all nonessential businesses across the  
9 Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, Essential services continue to be maintained and  
11 operated by frontline workers, guaranteeing residents of this  
12 Commonwealth access to food, medicine, gas and other essentials  
13 vital during this time; and

14 WHEREAS, From supermarket staff to logistics employees to  
15 health care workers, essential workers have continued to meet  
16 their existing responsibilities while overcoming staggering new  
17 challenges resulting from COVID-19; and

1       WHEREAS, While the COVID-19 pandemic has had an immeasurable  
2 impact on all residents of this Commonwealth, the impact on  
3 essential workers has been especially difficult; and

4       WHEREAS, The added stressors to the individuals serving in  
5 these too-often undervalued roles include the increased risk of  
6 infection, lack of protective equipment and isolation from  
7 family and social support networks; and

8       WHEREAS, These increased burdens at work may have had an  
9 adverse impact on the personal lives of essential workers or  
10 caused financial hardship, especially for those working in a  
11 low-wage occupation; and

12       WHEREAS, Many essential workers have fallen ill, been forced  
13 to quarantine or isolate themselves from loved ones indefinitely  
14 or have lost their lives; and

15       WHEREAS, For health care workers and first responders, in  
16 particular, witnessing the devastating effects of COVID-19  
17 firsthand can take an emotional and psychological toll; and

18       WHEREAS, At an already higher risk of depression, substance  
19 use and burnout, the mental health and well-being of health care  
20 workers is critically important in the continuing fight against  
21 COVID-19; and

22       WHEREAS, As all residents of this Commonwealth recognize the  
23 critical work essential workers continue to provide, we must  
24 remember that the mental health impact of this pandemic is not  
25 expected to vanish with a decline of COVID-19 cases; and

26       WHEREAS, Having carried the weight of supporting our  
27 communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, these individuals  
28 should not face a financial barrier when seeking access to  
29 mental health services; therefore be it

30       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Governor

1 to address the mental health care needs of essential frontline  
2 workers as one of their highest priorities; and be it further  
3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Governor  
4 to take action in coordination with the Insurance Department to  
5 waive in-network cost-sharing provisions for mental health  
6 services for Pennsylvania's frontline essential workers.