

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB534

Chairperson: Senator Merv Riepe

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: February 09, 2017

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB534 directs the Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services to hire a statewide housing coordinator to work with the division's regional housing staff. The statewide housing coordinator will:

- 1.) Coordinate efforts that relate to systemic housing goals,
- 2.) Provide expertise and assistance in finding non-state resources,
- 3.) Share best practices found nationally and locally, and
- 4.) Advocate for consumer needs within the division.

LB534 provides for \$1.1 million in FY2017-18, which would fund the statewide housing coordinator position and provide housing supports and services for individuals with serious mental illnesses. The Division of Behavioral Health is to issue the funds to behavioral health regions, which will then disburse funds to nonprofit programs that provide integrated housing services and support for individuals with serious mental illness. Program standards include peer support services, trauma-informed services, housing for individuals with co-occurring disorders, housing for individuals with serious mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse disorders, and housing for individuals with serious mental illness who have been released from jail or prison or placed on probation.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Tony Vargas