

**SF 10: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Appropriations
2008 Budget Session**

Sponsor: Select Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

SF 10 would provide about \$7.5 million to the Wyoming Department of Health, to expand and improve mental health, substance abuse and alcohol abuse intervention and treatment services statewide.

The bill would provide \$600,000 in state funding to supplement federal funding for the strategic alcohol abuse prevention grant program. This additional funding would be used to fund one grant in each county and on the Wild River Indian Reservation, at a maximum of \$50,000 per grant, for programs to prevent substance abuse including underage drinking.

The bill would provide \$1,693,600 to expand residential treatment for women in southeastern Wyoming who need substance abuse treatment. The funding would provide up to 16 additional beds for women in treatment, child care for their children, primary health care and therapeutic interventions.

SF 10 would provide \$5,177,430 for additional crisis stabilization services throughout the state. The funding would pay for up to 28 additional beds for short-term intervention for adults with acute mental health crises who need 24 hour intensive mental health treatment and stabilization.

SF 10 would provide \$40,000 for specialized training for judges, attorneys and mental health, substance abuse and other health providers who work with people needing mental health, alcohol abuse or substance abuse treatment services.

Finally, SF 10 would provide \$60,000 for the Select Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to continue to study and recommend additional legislation to provide effective programs for people who need mental health, alcohol abuse and substance abuse treatment in a cost effective manner.

Supporters of SF 10 noted that the Select Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' ongoing research supported the need for the expanded services as proposed in the bill.

Opponents were concerned about the increased cost of the expanded services for mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

SF 10 passed the Senate, 28-1 (1 excused) and the House, 58-1 (1 excused). Senator Cale Case (R-S25, Lander) cast the single NO vote in the Senate, and Representative Lisa Shepperson (R-H58, Casper) cast the single NO vote in the House.