



2011 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 23

March 9, 2012 – Introduced by Representatives PASCH and BERNARD SCHABER.
Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the Crisis Intervention Team program.

2 Whereas, the first Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program was developed in
3 1988 in Memphis in response to a tragic incident involving an individual
4 experiencing a mental health crisis; and

5 Whereas, CIT programs are based on training police departments with the
6 necessary skills and understanding to identify and provide the most effective and
7 compassionate response possible to situations involving people in mental health
8 crisis; and

9 Whereas, by participating in CIT programs, police departments nationwide
10 have experienced less need for the use of lethal force, less officer injuries, less injuries
11 to individuals in mental health crisis, and a decrease in involuntary commitments;
12 and

13 Whereas, Milwaukee and Appleton area police officers joined forces with their
14 local National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) chapters and numerous
15 community mental health experts to learn how to defuse such situations; and

1 Whereas, during CIT training mental health experts teach police officers how
2 to recognize a diverse range of mental illnesses and react appropriately to each
3 unique situation; and

4 Whereas, due to the CIT training that they received, law enforcement officers
5 have deescalated countless situations involving individuals with mental illnesses,
6 preventing injury and saving the lives of many; and

7 Whereas, because of the success of the CIT program, NAMI of Greater
8 Milwaukee developed the Crisis Intervention Partner (CIP), a shorter version of the
9 program that is offered to anyone working with individuals with mental illnesses,
10 including social workers, teachers, emergency room technicians, and correctional
11 officers; and

12 Whereas, the CIT program encourages communities and police departments to
13 come together for the common goals of safety, understanding, and service to
14 individuals with mental illnesses and their families; and

15 Whereas, by offering an immediate, calm approach, CIT reduces the likelihood
16 of physical confrontations and creates an opportunity to provide better patient care,
17 which often leads to increased treatment continuity with community providers; and

18 Whereas, the implementation and success of CIT programs indicate a shifting
19 in law enforcement from traditional police responses to a more safe and respectful
20 treatment of individuals experiencing mental health crisis; and

21 Whereas, hundreds of police officers across our state have been trained in crisis
22 intervention and our communities as a whole have greatly benefitted from these
23 programs since their inception; now, therefore, be it

24 ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the assembly honors the Crisis Intervention
25 Team program for its invaluable training and for providing our brave police officers

1 with the skills and knowledge they need to safely approach situations in which
2 individuals are experiencing mental health crisis.

3 (END)