

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHANEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, in conjunction with the Board of Regents, to study jointly the effectiveness and advisability of the structure of the licensure and certification for midwives as currently provided in the Louisiana Midwife Practitioners Act, to determine the most appropriate agency or organization to provide oversight for licensure and certification, and to report study findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, licensed midwives are community-based practitioners who provide comprehensive, holistic, individualized maternity care and alternative birthing services to low-risk clients; and

WHEREAS, midwifery care is family-centered and individualized to consider the unique cultural, ethnic, psychosocial, nutritional, and educational needs of the client and supports healthy lifestyle habits that benefit the whole family; and

WHEREAS, the midwifery profession has made a tremendous contribution to the health and welfare of mothers; and

WHEREAS, midwifery continues to advance as a profession as these providers comprise an increasing part of mainstream health care; and

WHEREAS, nationally, there is a trend of physician's offices, particularly those specializing in obstetrics, retaining a licensed midwife on staff to meet the demands of their patients seeking this form of delivery assistance; and

WHEREAS, nationally, the number of children born with the assistance of a midwife has increased significantly during the last decade; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is likely to experience a similar increase in midwife-assisted births; and

WHEREAS, there are a limited number of certified and registered midwives in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, no programs in midwifery education are offered in Louisiana, and there are limited programs available in the surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners is presently responsible for the current licensure and certification functions for the midwifery profession; and

WHEREAS, the limited number of certified midwives in Louisiana and the lack of functioning midwife education programs is a growing concern.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, in conjunction with the Board of Regents, to study jointly the effectiveness and advisability of the structure of the licensure and certification for midwives as currently provided in the Louisiana Midwife Practitioners Act, to determine the most appropriate agency or organization to provide oversight for licensure and certification, and to report study findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, the commissioner of higher education, and the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE