

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 186

BY REPRESENTATIVE SIMON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study and evaluate the current level of health and well-being of the residents of Louisiana, as well as available and potential models of healthcare delivery to create a Louisiana Health and Wellness Innovation Plan that helps this state to achieve the goal of having the healthiest people in the nation with access to the highest quality, most efficiently delivered health care.

WHEREAS, efficient delivery of health care is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of all residents of the state of Louisiana, yet many Louisiana residents have limited access to needed health care or have limited healthcare choices; and

WHEREAS, many Louisiana residents experience high out-of-pocket costs for health care, and the state as a whole experiences high aggregate healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, the provision of high quality healthcare services, regardless of the setting, is of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, new and innovative solutions must be identified to correct the problem of inefficient healthcare delivery; however, currently, there is insufficient data and information on the efficacy of alternative models of healthcare delivery; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has received conflicting information concerning whether overall access to healthcare in this state is expanding or diminishing, and whether the level of care now available to Louisiana residents is adequate or insufficient, resulting from the transformation of the state's healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 111 of the 2012 Regular Session calling for annual reporting on measures which could improve Louisiana's low standing in the annual "America's Health Rankings" report, and by numerous other legislative instruments calling for studies and reports on disease prevention

and treatment and other means of improving health outcomes, the legislature has an ongoing and deep concern for the health status and well-being of the people of this state; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana needs a healthcare system rooted in primary care and prevention, integrated with community resources, and truly accessible to its residents; and

WHEREAS, to improve healthcare quality, improve community health, and reduce the rate of growth in healthcare spending, Louisiana must foster a shared vision among a broad range of stakeholders to establish primary care as the foundation of healthcare delivery that is consumer and family-centered, team-based, evidence-driven, and coordinated, and in which value is rewarded over volume; and

WHEREAS, many individuals and groups are striving to improve the health of Louisiana residents and the healthcare system of Louisiana and there is utility in combining our disparate efforts in support of the public good; and

WHEREAS, nothing limits Louisiana from setting a goal to have the healthiest people in the nation with access to the highest quality, most affordable health care which will be attained when, compared to the other forty-nine states, Louisiana residents have the highest life expectancy, the highest percentage population with access to primary care, and the lowest per capita healthcare spending level; and

WHEREAS, the best strategy for attaining the state's goals of improved access, affordable costs, high quality care, and increased prevention is to strengthen the consumer's role in health and health care through innovations in patient-centered care and through support for healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, this strategy must rest on the foundation of a sound healthcare system which requires a sustainable workforce, a strong health information infrastructure, and statewide leadership.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study and evaluate Louisiana's current statewide system of healthcare delivery, the current level of health and well-being of the residents of Louisiana, and the available and emerging models of healthcare delivery to develop a Louisiana Health and Wellness Innovation Plan to recommend positive reforms to move the state's healthcare system in the right direction to meet the state's goal of having

the healthiest people in the nation with access to the highest quality, most affordable health care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Health and Wellness Innovation Plan shall focus on guiding principles which include, without limitation, the following:

(1) Whole-person-centered care is more than the integration of medical, oral, and behavioral health. It is also the consideration of social, cultural, emotional, and economic contexts for well-being. It is team-based, coordinated care for individuals with complex needs, provided in the right setting at the right time.

(2) Healthy families are the backbone of a strong community. Family health improvement requires attention to a community's particular healthcare needs and social determinants of health, requires the collaboration of a wide range of community partners, and the expansion of a diverse and well-trained workforce that includes non-traditional providers such as community health workers.

(3) Health information technology powers primary care transformation, enabling point of care information and communications, continuous learning, and performance improvement. The use of technology for data collection and analytics provides for evidence-based approaches to care delivery, population health management, consumer access to cost and quality information, and tools to measure achievement of access, quality, equity, and cost goals.

(4) Quality primary care is the bedrock of an effective healthcare delivery system. Access to primary care that is whole-person-centered, safe, effective, equitable, and based on the strongest clinical evidence is both fundamental and essential for improving health and healthcare outcomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the plan, the department shall engage, collaborate with, and obtain information and perspective from stakeholder groups with appropriate expertise, including but not limited to the following organizations:

- (1) The Pelican Institute for Public Policy.
- (2) The Louisiana Center for Health Equity.
- (3) The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals shall lead a comprehensive review of the duties required of the department by state

and federal law, and based upon this review, shall prepare a departmental plan to improve the effectiveness with which the various offices of the department interact internally and with the residents of this state for the purpose of achieving the highest standard of excellence in supporting and promoting the health and well-being of all Louisianians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departmental plan requested herein shall include but not be limited to a better alignment of the functions of the office of public health with the Medicaid program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide the Louisiana Health and Wellness Innovation Plan and the departmental plan requested by this Resolution to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before February 1, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE