

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 194

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Louisiana State Medical Society, the Louisiana Chapter of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the March of Dimes, and all participating hospitals for successful implementation of a statewide effort to end nonmedically indicated elective deliveries prior to thirty-nine weeks gestation.

WHEREAS, elective nonmedically indicated deliveries prior to thirty-nine weeks gestation can harm both mothers and babies; and

WHEREAS, complications resulting from such elective deliveries include increased admissions to neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), increased respiratory distress syndrome, increased ventilator support, and other transition issues; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to support a statewide culture of quality and safety in Louisiana's labor and delivery units, the Department of Health and Hospitals undertook an effort known as the "39 Week Initiative" to end nonmedically indicated deliveries prior to thirty-nine weeks gestation; and

WHEREAS, this initiative was a cross-departmental and multiorganizational effort focused on a collective passion for improving birth outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Louisiana State Medical Society, the Louisiana Medical Mutual Insurance Company, and the Louisiana Chapter of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists were vital participants in this initiative; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2011, the following fourteen of Louisiana's top birthing hospitals joined this initiative and created teams of nurses, administrators, and physicians who worked together to implement a quality improvement effort including a thirty-nine week policy:

- (1) CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital.

- (2) East Jefferson General Hospital.
- (3) Lafayette General Medical Center.
- (4) Lakeview Regional Medical Center.
- (5) Ochsner Medical Center.
- (6) Touro Infirmary.
- (7) Women's and Children's Hospital, a campus of the Regional Medical Center of Acadiana.
- (8) Rapides Regional Medical Center.
- (9) Baton Rouge General Medical Center.
- (10) North Oaks Medical Center.
- (11) St. Tammany Parish Hospital.
- (12) Terrebone General Medical Center.
- (13) Willis Knighton South and the Center for Women's Health.
- (14) Woman's Hospital; and

WHEREAS, the above-listed hospitals thereafter reduced elective deliveries from an average of fifteen percent to an average of seven percent and had a corresponding reduction in NICU admissions; and

WHEREAS, by December of 2011, each of the state's fifty-eight birthing hospitals had joined the 39 Week Initiative by pledging to implement a thirty-nine-week policy in their labor and delivery units; and

WHEREAS, special recognition is due to the March of Dimes and their national "Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait" campaign to end nonmedically indicated deliveries prior to thirty-nine weeks; and

WHEREAS, national and state leaders of the March of Dimes have been invaluable partners in the 39 Week Initiative.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Louisiana State Medical Society, the Louisiana Medical Mutual Insurance Company, the Louisiana Chapter of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the March of Dimes, and all participating hospitals for successful

implementation of a statewide effort to end nonmedically indicated elective deliveries prior to thirty-nine weeks gestation known as the 39 Week Initiative.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE