

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Department of Children and Family Services to continue to work collaboratively to coordinate opportunities and access to early childhood programs at the state and local levels.

WHEREAS, studies have demonstrated the value of investments in early childhood programs that improve basic social, emotional, and cognitive skills of young children at the earliest possible age; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that investment in high-quality early childhood programs has an immediate economic development impact as well as long-term economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, state entities involved in the oversight or provision of early childhood programs should collaborate and integrate processes to the fullest extent possible and administer early childhood programs in such a way that ensures the safety, welfare, and healthy development of children; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:407.21 et seq., directs the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to create a comprehensive and integrated network through which it manages and oversees all programs funded through state or federal resources that provide early childhood care or educational services; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved a framework to implement the Early Childhood Care and Education Network which was developed in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Health, the Department of

Children and Family Services, the Louisiana Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Nonpublic Schools Council, and the Child Care Association of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the framework to implement the Early Childhood Care and Education Network included the following:

(1) Funding based on performance and demand that ensures that all parents, regardless of income, have access to higher quality programs that prepare their child for success in school; and

(2) Clear and easy-to-understand information that allows families to make informed decisions about what program is best for their young children; and

(3) Resources and support to improve the quality of care and instruction to ensure all students have access to effective early childhood professionals; and

WHEREAS, this framework is necessary to inform continued collaboration and efforts among state agencies to ensure maximum effectiveness of the Early Childhood Care and Education Network, support to parents and child care providers, and appropriate oversight; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need for better coordination and collaboration among early childhood programs operating in the state, including more regular dialogue and increased information sharing among the various providers of such programs at all levels as well as school governing authorities, businesses, and local governments that participate in community networks.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Department of Children and Family Services to continue to work collaboratively to coordinate opportunities and access to early childhood programs at the state and local levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on the status and progress of the collaboration by December 1, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education, the president of the State Board of Elementary and

Secondary Education, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE