

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI AND SENATORS SMITH AND TALBOT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to authorize coverage through the Medicaid managed care program for services delivered by chiropractic physicians by including the coverage requirement in the 2021 request for proposals from managed care organizations for operation of the program.

WHEREAS, chiropractic physicians are valued providers in Louisiana's overall healthcare system, offering access to cost-effective, non-surgical, non-pharmacological treatments that support the health and wellness of their patients; and

WHEREAS, the health services that chiropractic physicians provide are safe and effective alternatives to prescription pain medications, particularly opioids; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2016, an average of one hundred fifteen Americans died every day from an opioid poisoning, and over thirty times that number were treated in hospital emergency departments for nonfatal opioid overdoses; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened our nation's epidemic of opioid abuse, which the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health characterizes as a "serious national crisis" that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare; and

WHEREAS, leading organizations in health care such as the Veterans Health Administration and the American College of Physicians recommend that for treating and managing pain, patients try conservative treatments commonly delivered by doctors of chiropractic as an alternative to opioids; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Medicaid managed care program currently covers treatments for neuromusculoskeletal conditions and various other types of services delivered by providers other than chiropractic physicians, but currently does not reimburse chiropractic physicians for providing these services, all of which are within the scope of practice of chiropractic established in law (R.S. 37:2801 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, improving access to care is a goal of our state's Medicaid program, yet high utilization of Medicaid-covered health services presents a budgetary concern; however, the Louisiana Department of Health, which administers the Louisiana Medicaid program, can manage this cost issue by setting utilization caps; and

WHEREAS, the department is currently developing a request for proposals (RFP) from managed care organizations for operation of the Medicaid managed care program of this state, and reports that it expects to issue the RFP this year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to authorize coverage through the Medicaid managed care program for services delivered by chiropractic physicians by including the coverage requirement in the 2021 request for proposals from managed care organizations for administration of the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the executive director of the Louisiana Medicaid Managed Care Organization Association.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE