

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to promulgate administrative rules requiring reporting of immunization information.

WHEREAS, the office of public health within the Louisiana Department of Health operates the Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids Statewide system, better known by the acronym "LINKS"; and

WHEREAS, LINKS is a web application that allows enrolled users to search for patients in a central registry and to view the patients' vaccination records; additionally, authorized users can add and edit vaccination records and other patient information, as well as maintain data on facilities, physicians, and vaccine lot numbers; and

WHEREAS, healthcare providers generally regard LINKS and the immunizations program of the office of public health as very successful public health initiatives of this state; and

WHEREAS, the software through which LINKS is operated has the capability for recording adult vaccinations as well as those for children, and could do so without programming changes; and

WHEREAS, the problem of adults unknowingly receiving multiple doses of a vaccine is a costly one and can jeopardize the health of patients, particularly those who are elderly or have chronic conditions; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize as public health priorities the need to decrease the cost to our healthcare system of repeat vaccinations and the need to eliminate the risk of the wrong vaccines being administered; and

WHEREAS, if put to its optimal use, the LINKS software which Louisiana is paying for today can help to improve public health in our state in the very near future at no additional cost; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Title 40 and Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the Louisiana Department of Health has the authority to provide for and protect public health in this state through administrative rules duly promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to require through administrative rulemaking that all physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers, including pharmacies, that administer immunizations to children or adults in this state record immunization information on both children and adults using the LINKS system software.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and to each member of the board of directors of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE