

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 84

BY REPRESENTATIVES KATRINA JACKSON, ARMES, ARNOLD, BADON, BARROW, BROSSETT, BROWN, BURRELL, CHAMPAGNE, DIXON, HENSGENS, HONORE, HUNTER, NANCY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, ORTEGO, SCHRODER, WHITNEY, AND WILLMOTT AND SENATOR DORSEY-COLOMB

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Hospital Association to promote and encourage public hospitals, hospitals receiving state funding, and medical clinics to promote the Text4baby initiative in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Text4baby is a free health text messaging educational program started by the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB) which delivers timely health advice via text message to those who need it most; and

WHEREAS, Text4baby is designed to help more pregnant women and new mothers increase their knowledge about caring for their health and providing their babies the best possible start in life; and

WHEREAS, Text4baby is made possible by a unique collaboration of organizations in both the public and private sectors, including the founding partners HMHB, Voxiva, CTIA the Wireless Foundation, Grey Healthcare Group, and founding corporate sponsor Johnson & Johnson along with the United States government partners which include the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, over eighty-five percent of Americans own a cellular phone and seventy-two percent of cellular phone users send or receive text messages; and

WHEREAS, Text4baby supports mothers by providing accurate, weekly, text-length health information and resources that are timed to a woman's due date or the baby's date of birth; and

WHEREAS, pregnant women and new mothers who text "BABY", or "BEBE" for Spanish, to 511411 receive weekly text messages throughout their pregnancy and up until the baby's first birthday; and

WHEREAS, the text messages provide information on a variety of topics critical to maternal and child health, including but not limited to developmental milestones, immunization, nutrition, mental health, and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that more than a half million babies in the United States or one in every eight births are premature each year; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, premature birth is the most frequent cause of infant death, the leading cause of long-term neurological disabilities in children, and costs the United States health care system more than twenty-six billion dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, a part of the Text4baby initiative is to help decrease the number of premature births, which can be caused by poor nutrition, excessive stress, and smoking; and

WHEREAS, the health tips sent via Text4baby will include information on risk factors, consequences, and opportunities for preventing premature births; and

WHEREAS, Text4baby messages also connect women to health resources through the inclusion of national hotline telephone numbers within the messages.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to promote and encourage public hospitals, hospitals receiving state funding, and medical clinics to promote the Text4baby initiative in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals and the president and chief executive officer of the Louisiana Hospital Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE