

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 88

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To request the Louisiana Department of Health to utilize increased collections from pharmacy rebates to reimburse pharmacists to acquire prescription drugs and then to increase rates for primary care providers and pharmacists in the Medicaid program.

WHEREAS, pharmacists are highly educated healthcare professionals who provide convenient, high-quality healthcare services, including medication management therapy, immunizations, long-acting injectable medications, disease management, point-of-care testing, and patient assessments and screenings to a great number of patients; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana pharmacists work in partnership with other healthcare entities and providers to improve patient outcomes and public health in this state; and

WHEREAS, funds are paid to the state in the form of a prescription drug rebate through the Medicaid drug rebate program as a result of outpatient prescription drugs dispensed by pharmacists to Medicaid patients; and

WHEREAS, the term "primary care" refers to routine healthcare services delivered by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal healthcare needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of family and community; this care includes screening, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment for the purpose of promoting a person's health and detecting and managing a person's disease or injury; and

WHEREAS, primary care and pharmacy services are a vital component of any healthcare system and are essential for improving and maintaining the health of any population; and

WHEREAS, enhancing healthcare provider reimbursement rates for primary care providers and pharmacists in the Louisiana Medicaid program is a direct incentive for increasing the availability of this much-needed care in our state; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 1 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Legislature requested a study of the costs and benefits of setting Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care services equivalent to Medicare rates for those services; and

WHEREAS, the resulting study found that Louisiana's Medicaid program pays on average sixty-seven percent of the rates provided by Medicare; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Executive Budget recommendation includes nine hundred fifty-one million twenty-five thousand nine hundred ninety-four dollars in pharmacy rebates that offset the expenditure need of the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid Estimating Conference received testimony at its meeting on April 12, 2022, that projected pharmacy rebate amounts could exceed the amounts recommended in the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Louisiana Department of Health to utilize these additional pharmacy rebates to reimburse pharmacists to acquire prescription drugs and then, if funds remain, to increase base reimbursement rates provided to primary care and pediatric office visit Evaluation and Management codes up to one hundred percent of the Medicare reimbursement rates provided for primary care services in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the director of the Louisiana Medicaid program.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE