

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVES ECHOLS AND THOMPSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the costs and benefits of setting Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care services at levels that are at least equal to Medicare rates for those services and to report findings from the study to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

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 is a vital component of any healthcare system and is essential for improving and maintaining the health of any population; and

WHEREAS, due to its interconnected problems of poor health outcomes and extensive health professional shortage areas, Louisiana has an especially pronounced statewide need for an expansion of primary care; and

WHEREAS, greater access to and utilization of routine primary and preventive care among members of any population, particularly a medically underserved one, reduces the population's need for more expensive forms of acute care; and

WHEREAS, due to the measurable effects that expanding access to primary care has in health outcome improvements and health system cost reductions, an expansion of access to primary care in Louisiana is both responsible public health policy and sound fiscal policy; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the costs and benefits of setting Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care services at levels that are at least equal to Medicare rates for those services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the benefits to be considered in this study shall include, without limitation, reductions in net costs of overall care for patients resulting from enhanced access to and quality of primary care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall report findings from the study called for in this Resolution to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES