

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 176

BY REPRESENTATIVE NOWLIN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on Louisiana-based community mental health centers and to report the findings and conclusions of the study to the House Committee on Health and Welfare by January 1, 2011.

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, hereinafter referred to as the "Act", provides that beginning April 1, 2011, in order to meet the definition of a community mental health center, forty percent of the services delivered by such a facility must be provided to non-Medicare recipients; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's community mental health centers currently serve a Medicare insured clientele that receives approximately ninety percent of the total services of these centers and generates in excess of eighty-five million dollars for our state's economy; and

WHEREAS, in the event that Louisiana's community mental health centers cannot meet the forty percent threshold mandated by the Act, that funding could be substantially reduced or lost entirely; and

WHEREAS, the Act also expands Medicaid eligibility income limits to one hundred and thirty-three percent of the federal poverty level beginning in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals estimates this change in eligibility criteria may add as many as six hundred thousand Louisiana residents to the Medicaid program, meaning that almost forty percent of our population will be insured by Medicaid, making it virtually impossible for Louisiana-based community mental health centers to meet the payor mix threshold mandated by the Act if they are not permitted to provide services to the Medicaid insured population; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana currently has fifty-seven Medicare certified community mental health centers which are currently limited to providing only Medicaid mental health rehabilitation services; and

WHEREAS, the state seeks to continue offering the services provided by community mental health centers to its residents and to ensure quality care and freedom of choice of providers in a fiscally prudent manner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on Louisiana-based community mental health centers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and Hospitals shall address the following matters in the study:

- (1) The role those centers should play in implementing comprehensive behavioral and mental health services within the state.
- (2) The potential costs of various options to expand participation of community mental health centers in the Medicaid program.
- (3) Any actions needed to assure the continued participation by community mental health centers in the Medicare program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals shall submit a report of the findings and conclusions of the study to the House Committee on Health and Welfare by January 1, 2011.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES