

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 269

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAGLEY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study and identify opportunities to increase the availability of prescription nonopioid medications.

WHEREAS, over fifty million Americans report suffering pain on most days or every day, and, for many, the only available treatment is opioid pain medication; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that in 2016 Louisiana had the fifth highest rate of opioid prescriptions at over ninety-eight prescriptions per one hundred persons; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that fatal overdoses claimed nearly two thousand five hundred lives in Louisiana, one thousand three hundred and thirty-five of which were attributed to opioids; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened our nation's epidemic of opioid abuse, which the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health characterizes as a "serious national crisis" that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare.

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 opportunities to increase the availability of prescription nonopioid medications including all of the following:

(1) The feasibility of using clinically appropriate nonopioid medications for the treatment of pain as a method to reduce the use of opioids.

(2) The difference in the amount of reimbursement for opioid pain medication versus nonopioid pain medication.

(3) The cost of opioid pain medication versus the cost of treatment of those addicted to opioid pain medication.

(4) The effectiveness and availability of nonopioid pain medications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall provide a written report to the House of Representatives no later than February 1, 2024.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES