

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the medical advisory council within the office of workers' compensation administration in the Louisiana Workforce Commission to meet and formulate guidelines to address the injured workers' need for routine physician office visits as well as formulate guidelines to address the interruption in prescribed active therapy treatment for injured workers.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana enacted Act No. 254 of the 2009 Regular Session, which created the medical advisory council within the office of workers' compensation administration in the Louisiana Workforce Commission; and

WHEREAS, the medical advisory council was charged with developing a treatment schedule whereby injured workers, who are entitled to workers' compensation benefits, would receive certain medical treatment for their injuries based upon the treatments prescribed by the medical treatment schedule; and

WHEREAS, the medical advisory council produced a medical treatment schedule in 2011 and the schedule became applicable to all medical treatment which is owed to injured workers beginning 2011; and

WHEREAS, the legislature required that the medical treatment "be developed by the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients, integrating clinical expertise, which is the proficiency and judgment that clinicians acquire through clinical experience and clinical practice, with the best available external clinical evidence from systematic research"; and

WHEREAS, the medical treatment schedule does not address the necessity of routine physician office visits, also known as evaluation managements; and

WHEREAS, patients are being denied basic medical care and routine physician office visits by some workers' compensation insurance companies who deny the claims because such visits are not specifically provided for in the medical treatment schedule; and

WHEREAS, patients are being denied adequate access to active therapy because the medical treatment guidelines allow for interruption of treatment and delays in receiving subsequent active therapy, resulting in a delay to return to work for many injured workers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the medical advisory council within the office of workers' compensation administration in the Louisiana Workforce Commission to meet and formulate guidelines to address the injured workers' need for routine physician office visits as well as formulate guidelines to address the interruption in prescribed active therapy treatment for injured workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the medical advisory council within the office of workers' compensation administration in the Louisiana Workforce Commission report to the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations and the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations the reformulated guidelines no later than September 1, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the medical advisory council within the office of workers' compensation administration in the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES