

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY SENATOR MORRELL AND REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to promote the department's EarlySteps system with the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Louisiana State Medical Society, and the Optometry Association of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, EarlySteps is Louisiana's early intervention system, providing services to families with children ages up to three years who are having problems walking, talking, hearing, or seeing, or who have a medical condition that could cause a delay in any of these areas; and

WHEREAS, EarlySteps is managed by the Department of Health and Hospitals, office for citizens with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the EarlySteps system is designed to support families with their child's development through assisting families in helping their child develop and learn, assisting families in understanding their rights in EarlySteps, assisting families in communicating their child's specific needs, and determining a family's concerns, priorities, and resources regarding their child's special needs; and

WHEREAS, the EarlySteps services are provided in a child's natural environment, such as at his home or at his child care facility; and

WHEREAS, EarlySteps services use the "family-centered" approach with the provider not only working with a child, but also with the child's family to help the family support and enhance the child's development; and

WHEREAS, the EarlySteps system has been a success and continues to be a success; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to make eligible children and their families aware of the EarlySteps system; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana hospitals and doctors come into contact with children and families who may be eligible for the EarlySteps system; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals should make every effort to ensure Louisiana hospitals and doctors are knowledgeable about the EarlySteps system and aware of the opportunity to direct children and their families to the EarlySteps system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to promote the department's EarlySteps system with the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Louisiana State Medical Society, and the Optometry Association of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the executive director of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the executive director of the Louisiana State Medical Society, and the executive director of the Optometry Association of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES