

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to authorize coverage through the Louisiana Medicaid program for portable oxygen concentrators, when medically necessary.

WHEREAS, oxygen is an essential medicine used to care for patients at all levels of the healthcare system, including in surgery, trauma, heart failure, asthma, pneumonia, and maternal and child care; and

WHEREAS, oxygen concentrators are devices that draw room air through a series of filters that remove dust, bacteria, and other particulates; and

WHEREAS, an oxygen concentrator delivers supplemental oxygen to individuals who experience drops in blood oxygen levels due to medical conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), COVID-19, and lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, there are two common types of oxygen concentrators: stationary and portable; and

WHEREAS, a portable oxygen concentrator draws oxygen from the air around it, eliminating the need for refillable tanks and making it smaller and lighter than stationary oxygen concentrators or portable oxygen tanks; and

WHEREAS, most portable oxygen concentrators are shorter than knee height and are designed to be carried or carted around; and

WHEREAS, because portable oxygen concentrators are smaller and lighter, they allow an individual to move around freely and receive supplemental oxygen while performing normal daytime activities or at night to help maintain blood oxygen levels while sleeping; and

WHEREAS, there may be a significant increase in not only quality of care, but also quality of life for patients who use portable oxygen concentrators, especially in rural healthcare settings and for pediatric patients; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Medicaid program currently covers portable oxygen tanks, but does not allow the option of a portable oxygen concentrator; and

WHEREAS, a portable oxygen concentrator may help keep Louisiana residents enrolled in Medicaid both active and in compliance with prescribed oxygen therapy for a healthier, happier, and longer life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to authorize coverage through the Louisiana Medicaid program for portable oxygen concentrators, when medically necessary.

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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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE