

1 WHEREAS, the vast majority of Louisiana's rural communities are medically
2 underserved by all established measures, yet programs to address the healthcare needs of this
3 population remain underfunded and few are guided by local stakeholders or locally
4 conducted needs assessments; and

5 WHEREAS, in consideration of the findings set forth in this Resolution, the
6 legislature hereby declares that improving health outcomes in rural communities is a critical
7 public health priority of this state.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 continue the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, with the following exceptions, the membership
11 and duties of the task force shall continue as provided in House Concurrent Resolution No.
12 44 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall include
14 one member from the Clinicians of Color Working Group and one member of the Louisiana
15 Managed Medicaid Association, appointed by the board of directors of the Louisiana
16 Managed Medicaid Association.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall continue to be a
18 subcommittee of the Statewide Health Equity Consortium within the Louisiana Department
19 of Health.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Statewide Health Equity Consortium shall
21 reconvene the meeting of the task force no later than August 15, 2025.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members shall be given reasonable notice
23 of the meetings of the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any member who fails to attend two consecutive
25 meetings shall subject to removal by a majority vote of the task force.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if a member of the task force is removed, the
27 chairperson may nominate a new member, who will become a member by majority vote of
28 the current members of the task force.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may adopt rules of procedure and
30 any other policies as may be necessary to facilitate the work of the group.

