

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Conservative Care Group and insurers to address the opioid crisis by working together to reduce opioid prescriptions by educating and encouraging the insureds to utilize conservative care, with the intended outcome of less addiction, misuse, and abuse of opioids by decreasing the number of patients being prescribed opioids.

WHEREAS, a pilot program for conservative care will encourage consumers who experience low back pain to seek such care from conservative care providers such as chiropractic physicians, physical therapists, psychologists, acupuncturists, massage therapists, and primary care physicians for treatment related to acute low back pain; and

WHEREAS, primary care physicians are considered conservative and should follow the opioid prescribing recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners when treating patients with acute low back pain who are experiencing high levels of pain that affect their daily life activities; and

WHEREAS, the Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons has reported that the United States consumes eighty percent of the global opioid supply and ninety-nine percent of the global hydrocodone supply; and

WHEREAS, an article in The Pain Practitioner published in 2014 stated there was a four hundred twenty-three percent increase in opioid use; and

WHEREAS, the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine conducted a study in 2012 and reported that opioid use among Louisiana workers' compensation claimants had significantly increased; and

WHEREAS, a study in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine in 2009 relating to the use and cost of opioids in Louisiana workers' compensation claims reported that the annual cumulative dose and cost of opioids per claim increased while at the same time opioid use in the United States increased by one hundred twenty-seven percent; and

WHEREAS, a study further identified that opioid dosage escalates as claims mature; and

WHEREAS, a long-term study related to lumbar fusion among workers' compensation claimants found forty-one percent in daily opioid use after surgery and seventy-six percent continued opioid use after surgery; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published a study relating to early management of persistent non-specific low back pain that found manual therapies such as manipulation, mobilization, massage, mobilization of soft tissues, and passive mobilization of soft tissues were effective in treatment of acute low back pain; and

WHEREAS, a Canadian study of effectiveness and cost effectiveness of chiropractic management of low back pain concluded the constellation of evidence demonstrated the effectiveness and cost effectiveness that the treatment was safe and that there were high rates of patient satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Western Journal of Medicine reported higher patient satisfaction with chiropractic physicians for the treatment of low back pain and patients also reported quicker recoveries; and

WHEREAS, development of this pilot program can aid in the development of how insurance companies can provide and help their insured members by providing information to assist in conservative care treatment choices and encouraging them to take advantage of the benefits to receive effective conservative care; and

WHEREAS, the insurance companies may provide incentives to waive co-payments and deductibles as an incentive to participate in this pilot program; and

WHEREAS, the insurers may educate insureds of the benefits related to conservative care; and

WHEREAS, this pilot program may provide physicians and other conservative care providers the guidelines to follow when treating patients within the context of this program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Conservative Care Group to take such actions as are necessary to establish a pilot program to help consumers seek a conservative care plan from physicians to limit the use of opioids which comports with the requirements and specifications provided in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Conservative Care Group submit a report of findings and outcomes of the pilot program to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the David R. Poytner Legislative Research Library not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any insurer which chooses to participate in this program shall provide claims data to the Chiropractic Association of Louisiana to access the outcomes of this program and inform the report required by this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the pilot program outlined in this Resolution shall be used to guide the integration of this program into health insurance benefits and into workers' compensation payers' efforts to improve outcomes related to opioid use for injured workers. The statement regarding co-payments and deductibles will not apply in workers' compensation. However, worker's compensation payers may consider other incentives to encourage injured workers with acute low back pain to seek conservative care first consistent with Louisiana medical treatment guidelines and this program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners and the president of the Chiropractic Association of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES