

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 216

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAGLEY

HEALTH/LDH: Urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Health to implement a digital platform to facilitate access to behavioral health services for certain conditions

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to implement a digital platform to
3 facilitate access to behavioral health services for adults with serious mental illness
4 and children with serious emotional disturbance.

5 WHEREAS, serious mental illness commonly refers to a diagnosis of a psychotic
6 disorder, bipolar disorder, or either major depression with psychotic symptoms or
7 treatment-resistant depression; and

8 WHEREAS, serious mental illness may also include anxiety disorders, eating
9 disorders, and personality disorders, if the degree of functional impairment is severe; and

10 WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses may be long-term and involve substantial
11 functional impairment that often leads to an inability to maintain gainful employment, poor
12 social support, repeated psychiatric hospitalizations, homelessness, incarceration, and
13 coexisting substance use disorders; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2019, over fifteen out of one hundred thousand Louisiana residents
15 died by suicide; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2021, more than fifty-five out of one hundred thousand Louisiana
17 residents died from drug overdoses; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2021, almost twenty percent of adults, ages eighteen through
19 forty-four, in Louisiana reported frequent mental health distress; and

1 WHEREAS, since the COVID pandemic began, over thirty-two percent of adults in
2 Louisiana reported having symptoms of serious depression or anxiety; and

3 WHEREAS, children with severe emotional disturbance are persons under the age
4 of eighteen who have had a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of
5 sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified within the most current Diagnostic
6 and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders that resulted in functional impairment which
7 substantially interferes with or limits the child's ability to participate in family, school, or
8 community activities; and

9 WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has
10 identified a digital platform to facilitate access to behavioral health services for adults with
11 serious mental illness and children with a serious emotional disturbance as an approved
12 expenditure through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration block
13 grants to support efforts to connect individuals with services in their area; and

14 WHEREAS, a digital platform could provide access to services in a wide variety of
15 settings, including mental health services, suicide prevention, and veterans' affairs that
16 would greatly benefit the residents of Louisiana; and

17 WHEREAS, a Louisiana-specific digital platform which makes it easier for
18 individuals to find local behavioral health services would be a valuable resource to Louisiana
19 residents; and

20 WHEREAS, Louisiana continues to face unprecedented challenges with substance
21 abuse, violent crime, and suicide, making the need to connect residents with resources even
22 more vital than ever.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
24 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health
25 to implement a digital platform to facilitate access to behavioral health services for adults
26 with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 216 Original

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Requests that the Louisiana Department of Health implement a digital platform to facilitate access to behavioral health services for certain conditions.