

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 273

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

MEDICAID: Urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Health to amend the state Medicaid plan to extend pregnancy coverage

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to amend the state Medicaid plan  
3 for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to extend Medicaid coverage for  
4 pregnant individuals on or before September 30, 2023.

5 WHEREAS, Louisiana has one of the highest maternal death rates in the country  
6 with black and brown women experiencing pregnancy-related deaths at a rate that triples the  
7 rate for white women; and

8 WHEREAS, Louisiana is one of eight states that received an "F" on the March of  
9 Dimes Report Card; and

10 WHEREAS, women who are enrolled in Medicaid are at a higher risk for maternal  
11 morbidity and mortality according to the American College of Obstetricians and  
12 Gynecologists with seventy percent of women reporting a health issue after delivery; and

13 WHEREAS, from forty-three days to one year after a pregnancy, pregnancy-related  
14 deaths are more likely to occur.

15 WHEREAS, for every one maternal death, there are seventy maternal women who  
16 experience illness or a disability that may shorten their life expectancy; and

17 WHEREAS, according to the National Institutes of Health, each severe maternal  
18 illness may cost several thousands of dollars; and

19 WHEREAS, improving access to Medicaid by expanding postpartum care has been  
20 associated with a fifty percent increase in the use of outpatient care, particularly for women  
21 with severe maternal morbidity; and

1           WHEREAS, Louisiana can protect the reproductive health of women, reduce  
2 readmissions, reduce maternal morbidity events, and reduce maternal mortality by covering  
3 expenses for low-income families via Medicaid; and

4           WHEREAS, maternal health should be a priority for this state because it would  
5 reduce costs and improve the quality of life for Louisiana families in the long term.

6           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
7 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health  
8 to amend the state Medicaid plan for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to  
9 extend Medicaid coverage for pregnant individuals on or before September 30, 2023.

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Medicaid pregnancy coverage extension  
11 shall be equal to one hundred eighty-five percent or below the federal poverty level.

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
13 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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#### 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)]

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HR 273 Original

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Knox

Requests the La. Dept. of Health to amend the state Medicaid plan for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to extend Medicaid coverage for pregnant individuals on or before Sept. 30, 2023.