

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 246

BY REPRESENTATIVES MANDIE LANDRY AND CHASSION

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health, through its Medical Care Advisory Committee, or the creation of a subcommittee thereof, to study ways for Medicaid to invest in community-based social service organizations that address health-related social needs and social determinants of health in an effort to decrease healthcare costs and improve care quality, experience, and the overall health of Louisianans.

WHEREAS, the state legislature recognizes the importance of addressing health-related social needs and social determinants to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities among Medicaid beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to explore and identify effective ways for Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to invest in community-based social service organizations that can positively impact the health and well-being of Medicaid beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with 42 CFR 431.12, the Medical Care Advisory Committee advises the Louisiana Department of Health about health and medical care services; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Care Advisory Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, should study and make recommendations on strategies, policies, and potential legislative and administrative initiatives to encourage and facilitate investments by Medicaid MCOs in community-based organizations that address health-related social needs; and

WHEREAS, Section 1115 of the Social Security Act gives the secretary of the United States Department of Health authority to approve experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that promote the objectives of the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program in this state; and

WHEREAS, Section 1115 demonstration waivers give states an avenue to test new approaches in Medicaid to lower costs and improve quality and health; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services encourages states to propose waivers that expand coverage, reduce health disparities, and advance "whole person" healthcare, which includes addressing health-related social needs; and

WHEREAS, other states have utilized Section 1115 demonstration waivers to address the social needs of Medicaid beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, the results of the initiatives established in other states could provide valuable insights for this state; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that this state references the valuable insights made available from these other states by the Medical Care Advisory Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, studying them and determining ways to implement its findings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health, through its Medical Care Advisory Committee, or the creation of a subcommittee thereof, to study ways for Medicaid to invest in community-based social service organizations that address health-related social needs and social determinants of health in an effort to decrease healthcare costs and improve care quality, experience, and the overall health of Louisianans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that preliminary recommendations shall be submitted to the chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than April 30, 2025, and the final report of findings and policy recommendations shall be submitted to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than February 27, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the scope of work of the committee shall include but not be limited to reviewing current Medicaid policies in this state, identifying potential barriers and opportunities for Medicaid MCOs to invest in community-based initiatives, recommending legislative actions and proposals for funding, evaluating the potential alignment of healthcare payment and delivery systems, and developing models of primary care and behavioral health integration to provide efficient, "whole person" health care that contains costs, reduces disparities, and achieves better health outcomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall specifically study Section 1115 demonstration waivers implemented by other states to address health-related social needs and social determinants of health for Medicaid beneficiaries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall incorporate its findings from the study of other states' Section 1115 demonstration waivers into a final report of findings and policy recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall request and collect relevant data and information necessary to fulfill its purposes from state agencies, Medicaid MCOs, community-based organizations, and other third parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may, to the extent feasible, request such information and data at no cost.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Medical Care Advisory Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall incorporate members with experience and expertise in health-related social needs interventions. Membership may include but not be limited to community-based social service organizations focused on addressing health-related social needs, housing security, food security, job readiness, training, education, public health, and the lived experience of people enrolled in the Medicaid program.

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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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES