

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY REPRESENTATIVES MILLER AND TURNER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to develop a professional consulting nursing service code in the New Opportunities Waiver, Residential Options Waiver, and Supports Waiver.

WHEREAS, nurses are critical members of the care teams of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities who receive home- and community-based services through the Medicaid waivers programs known as the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Residential Options Waiver (ROW), and Supports Waiver; and

WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities may be eligible to receive financial assistance from Medicaid to help cover the cost of medical and nursing care through waiver programs including NOW, ROW, and Supports Waiver; and

WHEREAS, intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, known commonly as ICFs, are Medicaid-funded residential facilities at which children and adults with special needs receive individualized healthcare and habilitation services; and

WHEREAS, state licensing regulations for disability services providers, including ICFs and NOW, ROW, and Supports Waiver service providers, require that these providers employ, contract with, or otherwise ensure access to all necessary professional staff to meet the needs of each service recipient as identified and addressed in the recipient's individualized service plan; and

WHEREAS, certain healthcare services may be completed only by a nurse, such as initial participant assessments, training for new or changed medication tasks, review of medical forms and charts, and performing complex tasks that cannot be delegated to direct support workers; and

WHEREAS, nurses deliver mandatory training and support to direct support professionals who provide the majority of the recipients' health care; and

WHEREAS, the current reimbursement rates for nursing services in the NOW, ROW, and Supports Medicaid waiver programs are nonexistent or inadequate to provide needed coverage to participants with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, NOW, ROW, and Supports waiver programs provide limited or no reimbursement to healthcare providers for nursing services, and healthcare providers are struggling to employ nurses, leaving them unable to provide certain services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to develop a professional consulting nursing service code in the New Opportunities Waiver, Residential Options Waiver, and Supports Waiver programs.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE