

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 211

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study means for improving access to and reliability of nonemergency medical transportation for Medicaid enrollees and to report its findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

WHEREAS, over one million three hundred thousand Louisiana residents are enrolled in the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, the ability to travel to a health care provider's location is essential for Medicaid enrollees to receive needed care; and

WHEREAS, some Medicaid enrollees do not have access to reliable private transportation and must rely on public transportation for travel to and from medical appointments; and

WHEREAS, due to recent changes to the state Medicaid program and privatization of the state's public hospitals, the existing public transportation options may no longer provide Medicaid enrollees with sufficient access to healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS, dependence on inadequate transportation reduces access to routine, preventative, and other nonemergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, reduced access can lead to poor health outcomes, particularly for those who have chronic conditions and multiple diseases, as well as those who stand to benefit from screening, prevention, and health promotion services; and

WHEREAS, because of poor access to care, routine conditions can escalate to a need for emergency care; and

WHEREAS, many health conditions of Medicaid enrollees can be managed if appropriate care is made available; and

WHEREAS, this care can be cost-effective and result in significant cost savings that outweigh added transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, great opportunity exists to achieve net societal benefits and to improve the quality of life of Medicaid enrollees by increasing access to nonemergency medical transportation; and

WHEREAS, improving access to health care for those with transportation needs can reduce health care costs; and

WHEREAS, federal regulations require state Medicaid programs to ensure that recipients have necessary medical transportation to and from covered Medicaid services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study means for improving access to and reliability of nonemergency medical transportation for Medicaid enrollees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide the findings of this study in the form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare prior to the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES