

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY SENATOR MILLS AND REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to seek a Medicaid state plan amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to include as a Medicaid service the Tdap vaccine for pregnant women and to provide a cost analysis to the legislature for providing this Medicaid service.

WHEREAS, pertussis, more commonly known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious bacterial disease that is potentially fatal to infants; and

WHEREAS, although many childhood diseases have been nearly eliminated by vaccinations, incidences of pertussis among adults, adolescents, and young infants have increased sharply over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *2013 Provisional Pertussis Surveillance Report* found one hundred sixty-six cases of pertussis in Louisiana that could have been prevented through the administration of a Tdap vaccine; and

WHEREAS, while most infants are given immunizations against pertussis, they do not begin the series of vaccinations until they are two months of age and are probably not protected until they have had at least three doses; and

WHEREAS, unvaccinated adults and adolescents can contract and spread this serious disease without realizing it, as the symptoms in an adult may resemble a common cold or bronchitis; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that up to eighty percent of babies catch pertussis from family members, usually a parent; and

WHEREAS, the spread of pertussis may be limited by increasing the vaccination rate among pregnant women, parents, and family members; and

WHEREAS, Act No. 159 of the 2013 Regular Session requires a hospital to offer the Tdap vaccination to each parent of a newborn infant prior to discharge from the hospital; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends pregnant women receive the Tdap vaccination during pregnancy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to seek a Medicaid state plan amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to include as a Medicaid service the Tdap vaccine for pregnant women and to provide a cost analysis to the legislature for providing this Medicaid service.

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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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES