

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 188

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study and determine the desirability and feasibility of implementing the health home option in the medical assistance program, known commonly as Medicaid.

WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of the residents of Louisiana is a vital issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the health of communities, families, and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, nearly forty-four million adults in the United States live with mental illness, and twenty percent of children and adolescents have a diagnosable mental health disorder; and

WHEREAS, one in twenty-five individuals in the United States has lived with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression; and

WHEREAS, studies note that individuals with serious mental illness die, on average, twenty-five years earlier than individuals in the general population; and

WHEREAS, individuals with mental illness, behavioral health disorders, or co-occurring substance use disorders can recover through treatment that includes psychosocial therapy, clinical treatment, and peer support, alone or in combination with behavioral, psychiatric, psychological, or integrated medical services; and

WHEREAS, parents, families, and caregivers are allies in recovery and serve as critical members of the care delivery team; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act authorizes health homes as a Medicaid state plan option that provides a comprehensive system of care coordination for Medicaid enrollees with chronic conditions including serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid health homes provide states with an important opportunity to integrate physical and behavioral healthcare for beneficiaries with complex care needs by

integrating and coordinating all primary, acute, and behavioral health care and long-term services and supports to treat the "whole person" across the individual's lifespan; and

WHEREAS, the unintended consequence of untreated mental illness results in a negative financial and social impact on Louisiana including an ever-increasing burden on the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the legislature declares that, due to compelling moral and economic reasons, it is in the best interest of Louisiana to study and evaluate the state's current statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study and determine the desirability and feasibility of implementing the health home option in the medical assistance program, known commonly as Medicaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall make a thorough evaluation of the feasibility and desirability of implementing a Medicaid health home state plan option to complement the current state medical assistance program and provide comprehensive care coordination for Medicaid beneficiaries with a serious mental illness, including, at a minimum, all of the following services:

- (1) Comprehensive care management.
- (2) Care coordination.
- (3) Health promotion.
- (4) Comprehensive transitional care and follow-up.
- (5) Patient and family support.
- (6) Referral to community and social support services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall endeavor to create a health home plan that achieves the prudent and efficient use of currently available services without expanding the scope of the covered services under the Louisiana medical assistance program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall include in its evaluation an assessment of the financial, social, and medical impacts of implementing the health home option in the medical assistance program, including both potential costs and savings and the

estimated number of Medicaid enrollees who would qualify for assistance. Further, the department may render objective, fiscally feasible recommendations for the implementation of policies that could be adopted by the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation if necessary, to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee and the Senate Finance Committee no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2018 Regular Session of the legislature.

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

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE