

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 245

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the secretary of Louisiana Department of Health to fully fund the costs to providers of home- and community-based services of implementation of the electronic visit verification system that the department has mandated.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health, referred to hereafter as the "department", is implementing a single electronic visit verification system to be utilized by providers of home- and community-based services statewide as part of a Medicaid information systems modernization initiative; and

WHEREAS, home- and community-based services providers deliver all of the following services in our state:

(1) Personal care attendant services (services required by a person with a disability in order to become physically independent or to remain in or return to the community).

(2) Respite care services (periodic care and supervision of a person with a disability or a medically fragile elderly person so that the primary caregiver can be relieved of such duties temporarily).

(3) Supervised independent living services (necessary training, social services, and medical services to enable a person with a developmental disability or mental illness to live as independently as possible).

(4) Family support services (advocacy services, family counseling, parent-to-parent outreach, legal assistance, homemaker services, family education, and other related programs).

(5) Adult day care services (services designed to meet the individual needs of functionally impaired adults structured to provide a variety of health, social, and related support services in a protective setting for a portion of a twenty-four hour day).

(6) Waiver program services (other Medicaid-funded home- and community-based services for the elderly and persons with disabilities).

WHEREAS, the quality of life of our state's most vulnerable citizens depends upon the quality of care that home- and community-based services providers are able to deliver; and

WHEREAS, while the state will be able to claim enhanced federal matching funds for the costs of implementing the electronic visit verification system, referred to hereafter as the "EVV system", there is no guarantee in federal or state law or policy that these funds will be reinvested in the providers which will be required to use the system; and

WHEREAS, the direct costs of front-line implementation of the EVV system fall entirely upon home- and community-based services providers, representing yet another unfunded mandate for these providers beyond those documented in House Bill No. 405, House Resolution No. 205, and House Resolution No. 211 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the secretary of Louisiana Department of Health to fully fund the costs to providers of home- and community-based services of implementation of the electronic visit verification system that the department has mandated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the executive director of the Community Provider Association, the executive director of The Arc of Louisiana, the executive director of the Supported Living Network, the executive director of People First of Louisiana, the president of the Support Coordination Alliance, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, the dean of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, the dean of the Southern University School of Nursing, the dean of the Southern University Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy, the dean of the Louisiana State University School of Social Work, the chief executive officer of the Louisiana Public Health Institute, the chief executive officer of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans, the president of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, the director of the Louisiana

Budget Project, the president and chief executive officer of the Council for A Better Louisiana, the state director of AARP Louisiana, the president and chief executive officer of the Council for a Better Louisiana, the executive director of the Advocacy Center, the chairperson of the Louisiana Assisted Living Association, the commissioner of administration, the commissioner of insurance, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, the president of the Louisiana State Medical Society, the chairperson of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, the chairperson of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, the chairperson of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, the director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, and the director of the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES