

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

HEALTH CARE: Requests a study of the costs and benefits of setting Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care services equivalent to Medicare rates for those services

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the costs and benefits of
3 setting Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care services at levels that are at
4 least equal to Medicare rates for those services, and to report findings from the study
5 to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and
6 Welfare.

7 WHEREAS, the term "primary care" refers to routine healthcare services delivered
8 by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal healthcare
9 needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of
10 family and community; this care includes screening, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment
11 for the purpose of promoting a person's health and detecting and managing a person's disease
12 or injury; and

13 WHEREAS, primary care is a vital component of any healthcare system and is
14 essential for improving and maintaining the health of any population; and

15 WHEREAS, due to its interconnected problems of poor health outcomes and
16 extensive health professional shortage areas, Louisiana has an especially pronounced
17 statewide need for an expansion of primary care; and

18 WHEREAS, greater access to and utilization of routine primary and preventive care
19 among members of any population, particularly a medically underserved one, reduces the
20 population's need for more expensive forms of acute care; and

1 WHEREAS, due to the measurable effects that expanding access to primary care has
2 in health outcome improvements and health system cost reductions, an expansion of access
3 to primary care in Louisiana is both responsible public health policy and sound fiscal policy;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, enhancing healthcare provider reimbursement rates for primary care in
6 the Louisiana Medicaid program is a direct incentive for increasing the availability of this
7 much-needed care in our state.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
9 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health
10 to study the costs and benefits of setting Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care
11 services at levels that are at least equal to Medicare rates for those services.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the benefits to be considered in this study shall
13 include, without limitation, reductions in net costs of overall care for patients resulting from
14 enhanced access to and quality of primary care.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall report
16 findings from the study called for in this Resolution to the House Committee on
17 Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare prior to the convening of
18 the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit
20 one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution
21 to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Requests the La. Department of Health to study the costs and benefits of setting Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care services at levels that are at least equal to Medicare rates for those services. Requests that the department report findings from the study to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare prior to the convening of the 2021 R.S.