

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

MEDICAID MANAGED CARE: Requests the La. Department of Health to authorize coverage through the Medicaid managed care program for services delivered by chiropractic physicians

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to authorize coverage through the
3 Medicaid managed care program for services delivered by chiropractic physicians
4 by including the coverage requirement in the 2021 request for proposals from
5 managed care organizations for operation of the program.

6 WHEREAS, chiropractic physicians are valued providers in Louisiana's overall
7 healthcare system, offering access to cost-effective, non-surgical, non-pharmacological
8 treatments that support the health and wellness of their patients; and

9 WHEREAS, the health services that chiropractic physicians provide are safe and
10 effective alternatives to prescription pain medications, particularly opioids; and

11 WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and
12 Prevention, in 2016, an average of one hundred fifteen Americans died every day from an
13 opioid poisoning, and over thirty times that number were treated in hospital emergency
14 departments for nonfatal opioid overdoses; and

15 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened our nation's epidemic of
16 opioid abuse, which the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health
17 characterizes as a "serious national crisis" that affects public health as well as social and
18 economic welfare; and

19 WHEREAS, leading organizations in health care such as the Veterans Health
20 Administration and the American College of Physicians recommend that for treating and

1 managing pain, patients try conservative treatments commonly delivered by doctors of
2 chiropractic as an alternative to opioids; and

3 WHEREAS, Louisiana's Medicaid managed care program currently covers
4 treatments for neuromusculoskeletal conditions and various other types of services delivered
5 by providers other than chiropractic physicians, but currently does not reimburse chiropractic
6 physicians for providing these services, all of which are within the scope of practice of
7 chiropractic established in law (R.S. 37:2801 et seq.); and

8 WHEREAS, improving access to care is a goal of our state's Medicaid program, yet
9 high utilization of Medicaid-covered health services presents a budgetary concern; however,
10 the Louisiana Department of Health, which administers the Louisiana Medicaid program,
11 can manage this cost issue by setting utilization caps; and

12 WHEREAS, the department is currently developing a request for proposals (RFP)
13 from managed care organizations for operation of the Medicaid managed care program of
14 this state, and reports that it expects to issue the RFP this year.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to authorize coverage through the
17 Medicaid managed care program for services delivered by chiropractic physicians by
18 including the coverage requirement in the 2021 request for proposals from managed care
19 organizations for administration of the program.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
21 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the executive director of the Louisiana
22 Medicaid Managed Care Organization Association.

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)]

HCR 42 Original

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