

2021 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY SENATOR BARROW

HEALTH DEPARTMENT. Requests the Department of Health to provide for equitable access to transformative therapies for sickle cell disease.

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## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to address regulatory barriers that impede patient access to novel therapies for sickle cell disease, and to work to ensure that sickle cell patients in the Louisiana Medicaid program have access to potentially curative therapies.

WHEREAS, sickle cell anemia and sickle cell disease, used interchangeably, refer to a group of inherited disorders that affect the red blood cells; and

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health is working on innovative genetic therapies that could someday cure sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration has granted orphan drug designation to sickle cell therapies to provide incentives and encouragement for development, and at the end of 2019, granted accelerated approval for a new treatment for sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease can be a life-threatening condition and access to comprehensive health care may be limited by social, economic, cultural, and geographic barriers; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, more than seventy percent of patients with sickle cell disease are insured under state Medicaid programs; and

WHEREAS, historically and continuing today, the sickle cell disease patient

