

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 107

BY REPRESENTATIVE MAGEE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to ensure that Medicaid managed care organizations cover and pay for certain respiratory panels.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented public health emergency due to which, as of March, 2021, more than ten thousand Louisianans have lost their lives; and

WHEREAS, the most effective way to reduce the pandemic's devastation is to quickly detect and treat COVID-19 and other respiratory infections; and

WHEREAS, because of the pandemic, utilization of respiratory panels increased as a means of detecting not only the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 but other potential respiratory infections which might complicate a patient's diagnosis and treatment options; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health has recognized the need for the Medicaid program of this state to cover and pay for laboratory testing for COVID-19 and other respiratory infections, particularly when the testing utilizes high-throughput technology; and

WHEREAS, as utilization of respiratory panels increased, certain health insurers, managed care companies, and other payors began to demand that clinical laboratories accept reduced reimbursement and to deny coverage of and payment for laboratory tests ordered by healthcare practitioners after examinations of patients; and

WHEREAS, when ordered by a healthcare practitioner, these respiratory panels provide a useful and effective means of identifying, quickly treating, and limiting the spread of serious respiratory infections.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to ensure that the Medicaid managed care organizations with which it contracts cover and pay for, without unnecessary restrictions, respiratory panels that include testing for SARS-CoV-2 performed by healthcare providers conducting clinical diagnostic laboratory tests ordered by Louisiana-licensed health professionals for Medicaid beneficiaries for the detection or diagnosis of respiratory infections.

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES