

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY REPRESENTATIVE JONES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to establish a pilot program to increase prostate cancer awareness and education by implementing more efficient screening and learning tools for men, specifically uninsured, middle-aged, African American males.

WHEREAS, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in American men; and

WHEREAS, prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States among males; and

WHEREAS, one in every seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer over the course of his lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates that in 2021, in the United States, there will be over two hundred forty thousand new cases and more than thirty-four thousand deaths from prostate cancer; and

WHEREAS, approximately three thousand nine hundred men in Louisiana are expected to be newly diagnosed in 2021; and

WHEREAS, there are typically no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer in its early stages; and

WHEREAS, nearly one million American men have prostate cancer and are unaware of their condition; and

WHEREAS, compared to Caucasian males, African American men are more likely to develop prostate cancer and are twice as likely to die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, African American men are also more likely than men of other races to be diagnosed with advanced stages of the disease; and

WHEREAS, low-grade prostate cancer, in its early stages, has more aggressive features in African Americans than in people of other races; and

WHEREAS, ongoing research promises further improvements in prostate cancer prevention, early screening, early detection, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, early detection and treatment offer prostate cancer patients the best hope for a full recovery, and improving patient outcomes depends a great deal on increasing public awareness of prostate cancer and its risk factors; and

WHEREAS, additional focus is needed for outreach and education for uninsured African American men on the benefits of prostate cancer screening, referral services, and treatment options; and

WHEREAS, educating people in the United States, including healthcare providers, about prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving lives and preserving families; and

WHEREAS, establishing a pilot program with the Louisiana Department of Health to increase prostate cancer education and testing for uninsured African American men in Louisiana could save lives by focusing on men of African descent over fifty years old and providing prostate cancer screening, referral services, and treatment services along with comprehensive outreach and education activities to ensure awareness and utilization.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana requests the Louisiana Department of Health to establish a pilot program to increase prostate cancer awareness and education by implementing more efficient screenings and learning tools for men, specifically uninsured, middle-aged, African American males.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit its findings to the Louisiana Legislature on the Prostate Cancer Pilot Program no later than February 1, 2022.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE