

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 217

BY SENATOR FESI

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, health care services division, to jointly report on the use and results of hydroxychloroquine for treating patients and individuals covered by an Office of Group Benefits health plan relative to COVID-19.

WHEREAS, Senate Resolution No. 28 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Legislature requested the Louisiana Department of Health to report on the use and results of hydroxychloroquine for treating patients and individuals covered by an Office of Group Benefits health plan relative to COVID-19 for a control period of March 2020 through October 2020 and to submit a report to the Senate by December 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to Senate Resolution No. 28, the Louisiana Department of Health advised of its inability to complete the required report due to funding and clinical research needed; that it did not consider the resolution as a health care- and clinical- related policy, but rather clinical and academic research, that the department did not have the capacity nor the in-house expertise to conduct a clinical study, and that the department was concerned that some data points would be unavailable or difficult to obtain, as in the case where medication was donated or it was used in outpatient treatment; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, health care services division, is to work and team collaboratively with other organizations to advance quality and efficiency in care delivery and positively impact health and health care for Louisiana's citizens; and

WHEREAS, hydroxychloroquine, also known as hydroxychloroquine sulfate, was approved for medical use in the United States in 1955; and

WHEREAS, hydroxychloroquine is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, and can be used to prevent malaria; and

WHEREAS, hydroxychloroquine has been proposed as a treatment for COVID-19

and has been the focus of several randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials across the United States and parts of Canada; and

WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Department of Health, as of October 19, 2020, there have been 2,594,376 COVID-19 tests administered; 175,982 confirmed COVID-19 diagnoses; and 5,566 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, health care services division, to report on the use and results of hydroxychloroquine for treating patients and individuals covered by an Office of Group Benefits health plan relative to COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include the following information for a control period of March 2020 through October 2020:

(1) The number of patients and individuals covered by an Office of Group Benefits health plan who were taking hydroxychloroquine for rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, or to prevent malaria during the control period and tested positive for COVID-19.

(a) Of those recipients who tested positive for COVID-19, how many were hospitalized and what was the duration of the hospitalization.

(b) Of those recipients who tested positive for COVID-19, how many deaths occurred whether hospitalized or not.

(2) The number of patients and individuals covered by an Office of Group Benefits health plan who were not taking hydroxychloroquine for rheumatoid arthritis or lupus, or to prevent malaria during the control period, tested positive for COVID-19, and were treated with hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 post-exposure prophylaxis.

(a) Of those recipients treated with hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 post-exposure prophylaxis, how many were hospitalized and what was the duration of the hospitalization.

(b) Of those recipients treated with hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 post-exposure prophylaxis, how many deaths occurred, whether hospitalized or not.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report to the Senate shall be provided no later than December 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and to the chancellor of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, health care services division.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE