SLS 22RS-1421

ORIGINAL

2022 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY SENATOR FOIL

BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS. Requests the Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana commercial health insurance payors to increase reimbursement rates for autism therapy services.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION	
2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana commercial health	
3	insurance payors to increase reimbursement rates for autism therapy services.	
4	WHEREAS, access to high-quality applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy services	
5	for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) furnished by private providers is essential	
6	for the health, safety, and well-being of those children; and	
7	WHEREAS, in 2008, the legislature mandated that all health coverage plans in	
8	Louisiana, including Medicaid plans, include coverage for medically necessary ABA therapy	
9	for children with ASD; and	
10	WHEREAS, reliable and sufficient Medicaid and commercial insurance	
11	reimbursement rates for private providers are necessary to create and maintain a sustainable	
12	statewide system of services for children with ASD; and	
13	WHEREAS, research has consistently shown that early detection, diagnosis, and	
14	treatment of ASD is essential to ensuring that early intervention ABA therapy services have	
15	the most positive impact on the social, communicative, and behavioral skills of a child with	
16	ASD; and	
17	WHEREAS, due to significant access barriers, families in Louisiana routinely may	
18	have to wait up to six to twelve months for a formal evaluation by a child psychologist or	

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1 other clinician to obtain an ASD diagnosis and another six to twelve months to access ABA 2 therapy services; and 3 WHEREAS, due to these long wait times, families in Louisiana often are not able to 4 access medically necessary autism therapy services at the appropriate time, thus delaying their child's progress; and 5 6 WHEREAS, a delay in accessing services ultimately costs more money since these 7 children often need more intensive therapy for a longer period of time than children who are 8 able to access ABA therapy early on; and 9 WHEREAS, since inception of the Medicaid ABA therapy program in 2010, 10 reimbursement rates for Medicaid ABA services have decreased by as much as twenty-four 11 percent for some services, while the price of labor and prices for almost all goods and 12 services have increased dramatically; and 13 WHEREAS, ABA therapy providers are limited by existing reimbursement rates 14 when determining pay rates for individuals who deliver ABA therapy services and, across 15 Louisiana, adequate staffing is a major barrier to families accessing ABA therapy services; 16 and WHEREAS, Louisiana Medicaid is one of only a few state Medicaid programs in the 17 18 country to use a bifurcated rate structure that reimburses providers different amounts for 19 delivery of the same ABA therapy service, based solely on the education level of the 20 individual providing the service; and 21 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Medicaid reimbursement rate for ABA services delivered by a registered line technician without a college degree is in the lower twenty percent of all 22 23 states nationwide; and 24 WHEREAS, numerous states are reviewing their reimbursement rates in light of current challenges to providing access to ABA therapy services; and 25 WHEREAS, providers of ABA therapy services for children with ASD are essential 26 27 and the services they deliver for children with ASD are invaluable; and WHEREAS, fair and equitable funding for ABA therapy providers that make up this 28 29 state's autism services system is necessary in order to ensure that Louisiana children with 30 ASD have access to medically necessary therapy services.

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1	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby	
2	urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana commercial health	
3	insurance payors to increase reimbursement rates to reflect changes in the cost of providing	
4	ABA therapy services and to ensure adequate access to medically necessary therapy services	
5	for Louisiana children with ASD.	
6	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge and request the	
7	Louisiana Department of Health to make adjustments in the state Medicaid budget to	
8	allocate more fair and equitable funding for ABA therapy providers.	
9	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the	
10	secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the executive director of the Louisiana	
11	Association of Health Plans.	

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

	DIGEST	
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