

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to examine options to improve reimbursement rates for residential substance abuse treatment facilities in the state.

WHEREAS, in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout the state, some costs associated with securing quality providers, transportation, and dietary needs for our critically fragile substance abuse patients skyrocketed; and

WHEREAS, even with the workforce slowly returning back to its pre-pandemic operations, residential substance abuse treatment reimbursement rates are behind nursing home and psychiatric inpatient rates; and

WHEREAS, there is continuous competition for essential behavioral health providers in the state; and

WHEREAS, the level of acuity of patients seeking services at residential substance abuse facilities continues to rise; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana risks unintended outcomes and potential safety concerns for those in desperate need of addiction treatment; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, nearly ninety-two thousand people died in the United States from drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, unintentional poisoning from a drug overdose was the number one cause of injury-related death in the United States for adults ages twenty-five to sixty-four, killing more than forty thousand people annually; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics (NCDAS), fifty-three million, or nineteen and four-tenths percent, of people ages twelve and older have used illegal drugs or misused prescription drugs within the last year; and

WHEREAS, NCDAS finds that one hundred sixty-five million, or sixty and two-tenths percent, of Americans ages twelve and older currently abuse drugs if alcohol and tobacco are included; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program in this state currently reimburses residential substance abuse treatment providers at a rate that is thirty percent lower than Mississippi.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to explore and consider all options available to improve reimbursement rates for residential substance abuse treatment providers to ensure stable and quality services for those with behavioral healthcare needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall study all of the following:

(1) Rate comparison and service array relative to Mississippi.

(2) Analysis of rising costs and the impact of COVID-19.

(3) The feasibility of the use of Opioid Legal Settlement Funds in a trust fund, a self-assessed provider fee to improve funding through federal matching options, or any combination of the two.

(4) Analysis of parity between psychiatric inpatient rates and inpatient substance abuse rates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall make a written report of its findings and recommendations, including but not limited to suggestions for mechanisms for rate increases, to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than January 1, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE