

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to apply, on or before September 30, 2023, to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for an amendment to the state Medicaid plan to extend the income eligibility criteria for Medicaid coverage for pregnant individuals to one hundred eighty-five percent of the federal poverty level or below.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has one of the highest maternal death rates in the country with Black and Brown women experiencing pregnancy-related death at three times the rates of White women; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is one of eight states who received an "F" on the March of Dimes Report Card; and

WHEREAS, low-income women are more at risk for maternal morbidity and mortality according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists with seventy percent of women enrolled in Medicaid identifying with a health issue after delivery; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of pregnancy associated mortality is between forty-three days to one year after the end of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, for every one maternal death, there are seventy maternal women who experience morbidity events which are illnesses or disabilities that can shorten their life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institutes for Health (NIH), the cost of each severe maternal morbidity event is upwards of eleven thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, improving access to healthcare through postpartum expansion of Medicaid has been associated with a fifty percent increase in the use of outpatient care, particularly for women with severe maternal morbidity; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana can protect the reproductive health of women, reduce re-admissions, reduce maternal morbidity events, and reduce maternal mortality by providing health insurance coverage of low-income women through Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, maternal health should be a priority for our state, which would reduce costs and improve the quality of life for our Louisiana families in the long term.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to apply, on or before September 30, 2023, to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for an amendment to the state Medicaid plan to extend income eligibility criteria for Medicaid coverage for pregnant individuals to one hundred eighty-five percent of the federal poverty level or below.

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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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE