

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 273

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to amend the state Medicaid plan for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to extend Medicaid coverage for pregnant individuals on or before September 30, 2023.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has one of the highest maternal death rates in the country with black and brown women experiencing pregnancy-related deaths at a rate that triples the rate for white women; and

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

WHEREAS, women who are enrolled in Medicaid are at a higher risk for maternal morbidity and mortality according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists with seventy percent of women reporting a health issue after delivery; and

WHEREAS, from forty-three days to one year after a pregnancy, pregnancy-related deaths are more likely to occur.

WHEREAS, for every one maternal death, there are seventy maternal women who experience illness or a disability that may shorten their life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institutes of Health, each severe maternal illness may cost several thousands of dollars; and

WHEREAS, improving access to Medicaid by expanding postpartum care 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 readmissions, reduce maternal morbidity events, and reduce maternal mortality by covering expenses for low-income families via Medicaid; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to amend the state Medicaid plan for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to extend Medicaid coverage for pregnant individuals on or before September 30, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Medicaid pregnancy coverage extension shall be equal to one hundred eighty-five percent or below the federal poverty level.

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