SLS 24RS-289 **ORIGINAL**

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR MCMATH

MEDICAID. Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to increase eligibility requirements for the Medicaid Purchase Plan.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to increase eligibility requirements for the Medicaid Purchase Plan to the original countable income and asset limits.

WHEREAS, the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MPP) is an optional Medicaid program that provides healthcare coverage to individuals with disabilities who are employed and meet specific income requirements; and

WHEREAS, MPP was implemented in January 2004, and provides full medical coverage, including prescription drugs, hospital care, doctor services, medical equipment and supplies, medical transportation, and personal assistance services; and

WHEREAS, in order to qualify for the program, individuals are required to: have a significant disability that matches Social Security standards; work; be at least sixteen years of age but not yet sixty-five; have countable income and countable assets below the program limits; and take other health insurance coverage, if available at no cost to the individual; and

WHEREAS, when the program was first implemented, the income and asset limits for individuals were an annual countable income of less than 250% below the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) and countable assets of less than $25,000; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, significant changes were made to the program that reduced the countable income to the current limit of $1,215 per month for a family of one and $1,644 for

a family of two; and

WHEREAS, the changes in 2014 also reduced countable assets to the current limit of less than $10,000; and

WHEREAS, working individuals with disabilities are now only able to make income just slightly over the regular Medicaid income limits; and

WHEREAS, these reductions have forced individuals with disabilities to choose between employment and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, most of those individuals have chosen to leave their jobs so that they could continue the much-needed support from the home and community-based services they received; and

WHEREAS, work is a fundamental part of adult life for people with and without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, all MPP participants are tax-paying residents and have contributed a total of over $8,000,000 in federal taxes, including FICA and federal income tax, and over $1,000,000 in state taxes since the inception of the program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to increase eligibility requirements for the Medicaid Purchase Plan to the original countable income and asset limits, allowing people with disabilities to receive personal assistance services, get out of poverty, and participate in and be fully included in their communities.

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

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

DIGEST

SCR 17 Original 2024 Regular Session McMath

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