2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 222

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONSTON

CHILDREN/ABUSE: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to evaluate factors affecting children who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder in this state and their families

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to evaluate factors affecting
3	children who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in this state and
4	their families.
5	WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, ASD is a
6	neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact, communicate,
7	learn, and behave with others; and
8	WHEREAS, there are many determining symptoms for an ASD diagnosis; and
9	WHEREAS, ASD symptoms include but are not limited to difficulties with social
10	interaction and communication, issues with transitioning from one activity to another,
11	problems with focusing on certain details, and unusual reactions to sensations; and
12	WHEREAS, children who are diagnosed with ASD often experience various health-
13	related conditions which include but are not limited to epilepsy, depression, anxiety, and
14	attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and
15	WHEREAS, between 2000 and 2020, one in thirty-six children were diagnosed with
16	ASD; and
17	WHEREAS, statistically, the amount of grade school children diagnosed with ASD
18	has risen in recent years; and

1	WHEREAS, as a result, family members, caretakers, and educators of children with
2	ASD have been impacted by the increased needs that caring for a child with ASD presents;
3	and
4	WHEREAS, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2022, only
5	twenty-one percent of those with disabilities such as ASD were employed; and
6	WHEREAS, additionally, males are three to four times more likely to be diagnosed
7	with ASD than females while the statistics of children diagnosed with ASD remains to be
8	genetically diverse; and
9	WHEREAS, this data-based diversity indicates that genetics do not account for all
10	instances of ASD; and
11	WHEREAS, the increased prevalence of ASD in certain socioeconomic
12	demographics and geographic locations has also generated great interest in the potential
13	involvement of environmental factors and toxicants in our environment; and
14	WHEREAS, the role of environmental factors and toxicants in the development of
15	ASD is critical, because environmental factors impact epigenetics significantly and influence
16	the risk for developing ASD; and
17	WHEREAS, ASD is associated with roughly four million dollars in lifetime costs per
18	individual; and
19	WHEREAS, the lifetime costs in the United States to date for ASD is more than
20	seven trillion dollars; and
21	WHEREAS, the projected societal costs for ASD in the United States over the next
22	decade is estimated to increase significantly if prevalence remains the same; and
23	WHEREAS, this data illustrates the need to evaluate and identify risks, etiology,
24	
	environmental factors, and toxicants that affect ASD rates within our state; and
25	environmental factors, and toxicants that affect ASD rates within our state; and WHEREAS, an evaluation of the infrastructure needed to provide equitable
25 26	
	WHEREAS, an evaluation of the infrastructure needed to provide equitable
26	WHEREAS, an evaluation of the infrastructure needed to provide equitable diagnostics, treatments, and support services with a sound economic impact on children with
26 27	WHEREAS, an evaluation of the infrastructure needed to provide equitable diagnostics, treatments, and support services with a sound economic impact on children with ASD and their families is pertinent.

1 families and submit its findings in the form of a written report to the House Committee on 2 Health and Welfare by February 1, 2025. 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the evaluation shall include but not be limited 4 to access to early diagnosis, treatment options, medical and homecare costs, education 5 challenges, employment challenges, environmental factors, toxicants, epigenetics, and 6 long-term care options. 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall 8 evaluate and understand the prevalence of ASD in this state by region. 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall 10 evaluate and understand the environmental and toxicant factors that may be affecting 11 children in regions of the state wherein ASD diagnosis has increased in comparison to other 12 regions of the state. 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall 14 evaluate and understand the fiscal impact of ASD on the individuals affected by the disease 15 and how it impacts the state's healthcare and education systems. 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 17 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Edmonston

Requests the La. Dept. of Health to evaluate factors affecting children who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder in this state and their families.

Requests the submission of a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare by February 1, 2025.