

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 211

BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER

A RESOLUTION

To direct the office for citizens with developmental disabilities to extend its Family Flexible Fund and waiver provisions in cases of emergency via administrative authority, or rulemaking authority as necessary.

WHEREAS, according to its website, the office for citizens with developmental disabilities serves as the single point of entry for developmental disabilities services; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the office for citizens with developmental disabilities to oversee public and private residential services and other services for people with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, to fulfill its duties, the office for citizens with developmental disabilities performs assessments to determine the eligibility of persons who request services for developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the office for citizens with developmental disabilities also provides monthly stipends to the families of people with severe or profound developmental disabilities from birth to age of majority who are deemed eligible; and

WHEREAS, such provisions from the office for citizens with developmental disabilities help families meet the extraordinary costs associated with the provision of care for a person with severe or profound developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, many people who utilize Medicaid home- and community-based waiver programs are afforded flexibility to choose where they want to live; and

WHEREAS, those persons are also able to determine which Medicaid services best accommodate their needs; and

WHEREAS, the office for citizens with developmental disabilities offers specific service packages and eligibility requirements for each home- and community-based waiver; and

WHEREAS, waiver opportunities depend on funding and are offered based on the individual's need and priority level from the screening information in the request for services registry; and

WHEREAS, the services that families are able to access using the Family Flexible Fund program include but are not limited to respite care, personal assistance services, specialized clothing, dental and medical services, equipment and supplies, communication services, crisis intervention, specialized utility costs, specialized nutrition, and family education; and

WHEREAS, such services are provided through private provider agency contracts or through agreements with individuals and families who obtain their own service providers; and

WHEREAS, there have been instances when families have faced undue financial burdens as a result of the expiration of the Family Flexible Fund provisions offered by the office for citizens with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the office for citizens with developmental disabilities extend its Family Flexible Fund provision to ensure that such a burden is never placed on the family of a person with a severe or profound developmental disability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the office for citizens with developmental disabilities to establish expedited processes for its Family Flexible Fund and waiver programs in cases of extraordinary circumstances via administrative authority, or rulemaking authority, as necessary, by April 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the assistant secretary of the office for citizens with developmental disabilities and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES