

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY REPRESENTATIVE HILFERTY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create a task force to study the implementation and impact of the Family Connects model of postpartum newborn nurse home visiting in Louisiana and other states, to develop policy and funding recommendations to implement the Family Connects model in this state, to provide for the composition and duties of the task force, and to report findings to the Louisiana Legislature.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes that evidence-based newborn nurse home visiting programs for babies have demonstrated success in improving outcomes for children and families; and

WHEREAS, a 2023 report by the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children found that current state-sponsored home visiting programs reached only approximately six percent of all births in the state in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks among the highest states for maternal and infant mortality and lacks access to the services that address the needs of postpartum mothers and their infants; and

WHEREAS, very young children represent the highest percentage of those children taken into the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, parents of children across the economic spectrum can benefit from targeted services in their baby's earliest days; and

WHEREAS, the Family Connects model of postpartum newborn nurse home visiting is being provided in local communities and demonstrating success in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, other states have recognized the benefits of the Family Connects model of postpartum newborn nurse home visiting and designed public and private insurance benefits as a sustainable source of funding for postpartum newborn nurse home visiting programs; and

WHEREAS, postpartum nurse newborn home visiting services can help families identify potential health issues that may lead to developmental delays allowing for less costly interventions; and

WHEREAS, the state could dramatically change the trajectory for many children by increasing access to postpartum nurse newborn home visiting services to families when children are the most vulnerable and their brains are rapidly developing; and

WHEREAS, the Family Connects model of postpartum newborn nurse home visiting has been found to improve health outcomes and reduce costs associated with emergency and inpatient hospital utilization.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Postpartum Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The director of the Louisiana Medicaid program or his designee.
- (2) The director of the bureau of family health within the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- (3) The medical director of the Louisiana Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review within the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- (4) The deputy commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Insurance, office of health, life, and annuity or his designee.
- (5) The executive director of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children or his designee.
- (6) The executive director to the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families or his designee.
- (7) The executive director of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association or his designee.
- (8) The executive director of the Louisiana Hospital Association or his designee.
- (9) The executive director of the Louisiana State Nurses Association or his designee.
- (10) The director of the Family Connects New Orleans or his designee.
- (11) The chief nursing officer of Woman's Hospital of Baton Rouge or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the task force shall include but not be limited to all of the following:

(1) Reviewing the current landscape of Family Connects postpartum newborn nurse home visiting programs being developed or delivered in this state.

(2) Reviewing the current landscape of Medicaid coverage for Family Connects postpartum newborn nurse home visiting programs in other states.

(3) Reviewing the current landscape of private insurance coverage for Family Connects postpartum newborn nurse home visiting programs in other states.

(4) Evaluating the impact of existing Family Connects postpartum home visiting programs on health outcomes for families served including mothers and infants.

(5) Evaluating the estimated per family cost of Family Connects postpartum newborn nurse home visiting services in this state.

(6) Defining the scope of services provided by Family Connects postpartum newborn nurse home visiting programs encompassing both billable and non-billable activities.

(7) Identifying the most appropriate Medicaid State Plan authority to establish a covered benefit for evidence-based postpartum newborn nurse home visiting services.

(8) Recommending suitable reimbursement rates and developing a reimbursement structure for postpartum newborn nurse home visiting.

(9) Identifying or creating provider billing codes and recommending provider documentation requirements for Medicaid and private insurance plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be empowered to request and collect relevant data and information necessary to fulfill its purposes from state agencies, Medicaid managed care organizations, and community-based organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may, to the extent feasible, request such information and data at no cost.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall incorporate the findings from the study of other states' insurance coverage of evidence-based postpartum newborn nurse home visiting programs in its comprehensive report of findings and policy recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall provide staff support to the task force to assist with identifying appointees, scheduling task

force meetings, recording meeting minutes, conducting policy research, and developing the draft and final report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall elect a chair at the first meeting of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the first meeting of the task force meeting shall be held by August 31, 2024, and shall meet as frequently as it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a draft report with preliminary recommendations shall be generated and reviewed at a meeting of the task force by January 31, 2025, and a final report with recommendations shall be generated and approved by the task force by February 28, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force meetings may be conducted in person, by telephone, or virtually using a secure web-based platform as authorized by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall transmit a final report of the task force's findings and policy recommendations to the legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the director of the Louisiana Medicaid program, the director of the bureau of family health within the Louisiana Department of Health, the medical director of the Louisiana Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review within the Louisiana Department of Health, the deputy commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Insurance, office of health, life, and annuity, the executive director of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, the executive director to the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, the executive director of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the executive director of the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the director of the Family Connects New Orleans, the chief nursing officer of Woman's Hospital of Baton Rouge.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE