

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 88

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the United States Food and Drug Administration to regulate tattoo ink.

WHEREAS, approximately one-third of Americans report having one or more tattoos; and

WHEREAS, the global tattoo market was valued at one billion eight hundred ninety million dollars in 2022, and the global tattoo removal industry was valued at four hundred eighty seven million dollars in 2019; and

WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of Americans report the reason they obtain a tattoo is to honor or remember someone or something; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-quarter of Americans report regretting getting one or more of their tattoos; and

WHEREAS, nearly one-third of Americans who do not have tattoos say that seeing a tattoo on someone gives them more of a negative impression than positive impression of that person; and

WHEREAS, traditionally, the health risks associated with obtaining a tattoo include the short-term risk of bacterial infections and allergic reactions and the long-term risks of contracting a disease due to unsanitary conditions; and

WHEREAS, more recently, researchers have begun studying to determine if there is a link between tattoos and skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the European Union promulgated rules to regulate certain substances in tattoo ink and permanent make-up that contain carcinogenic precursors and other chemicals that may be harmful to human health; and

WHEREAS, researchers at Binghamton University have found evidence to suggest that color additives used in tattoo inks may contain molecules that may convert to known carcinogens by bacteria or when exposed to ultraviolet light; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration traditionally regulates materials that come in contact with skin such as cosmetics; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has the authority to regulate tattoo ink; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration released nonbinding guidance to assist tattoo ink manufacturers and distributors recognize situations in which tattoo ink may be contaminated with microorganisms; and

WHEREAS, despite a potential health risk, the United States Food and Drug Administration has not promulgated any rules or taken any traditional regulatory enforcement action to protect consumers from tattoo ink health complications.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Food and Drug Administration to regulate color additives used in tattoo ink in order to promote the health and safety of United States citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of food and drugs of the United States Food and Drug Administration.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE