

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 102

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, center for community and preventive health, to work with school-located influenza vaccination stakeholders to prepare for the 2013-2014 influenza season in order to immunize children against influenza.

WHEREAS, every year in the United States, on average, more than two hundred thousand people are hospitalized from influenza-related complications and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that between three thousand and forty-nine thousand people in the United States die from influenza-related causes; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that between four hundred fifty thousand and nine hundred thousand Louisiana residents become infected with influenza each year; and

WHEREAS, the total number of influenza-related hospitalizations in Louisiana range from five hundred to one thousand six hundred per year, with the rate varying from fifteen to thirty-five per one hundred thousand population per year; and

WHEREAS, influenza is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza A and B viruses; and

WHEREAS, the best way to help prevent seasonal influenza is by getting a vaccination each year; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends annual seasonal influenza vaccination for all eligible persons in the United States, including all individuals six months of age or older; and

WHEREAS, children and young adults five years to nineteen years of age are three to four times more likely to be infected with influenza than adults; and

WHEREAS, school-aged children is the population group most responsible for the transmission of influenza; and

WHEREAS, influenza vaccination programs located in schools are effective ways to vaccinate eligible children and increase vaccination rates in children; and

WHEREAS, influenza vaccination programs located in schools may improve organizational capacity to conduct sustained mass vaccination clinics for children as might be required in response to a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, participation in vaccination programs by a school district or an individual should be voluntary and the vaccine should be administered with the consent of a student's parent or legal guardian.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, center for community and preventive health, to work with school-located influenza vaccination stakeholders to prepare for the 2013-2014 influenza season in order to immunize children against influenza.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to collaborate with the state insurance commissioner, private insurers, and vaccine stakeholders to facilitate the accessibility of coverage for all reasonable and customary expenses, including the cost of the vaccine and administration fee, incurred when the influenza vaccine is administered outside of a physician's office in a school or other settings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to help support these programs through coordination with local health departments, school nurses, mass vaccinations access companies, school health care programs, or other local entities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to assist mass vaccination companies in registering with the medical assistance program in order to receive vaccine from the federal Vaccines for Children program for eligible children and reimbursement from the medical assistance program for administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and Hospitals shall submit a written report on the results of the school-located vaccination programs which addresses barriers to the expansion of the programs and proposes options for sustaining existing programs to the House Committee on Health and Welfare on or before April 1, 2014.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES