SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 217

BY SENATOR FESI

HEALTH CARE. Directs the Louisiana Department of Health and the LSU Health Services Center - New Orleans, health care services division, to report on the use and results of hydroxychloroquine on Medicaid patients for treating COVID-19.

A RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, health care services division, to jointly report on the use and results of hydroxychloroquine for treating Medicaid recipients relative to COVID-19.

WHEREAS, Senate Resolution No. 28 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Legislature requested the Louisiana Department of Health to report on the use and results of hydroxychloroquine for treating Medicaid recipients relative to COVID-19 for a control period of March 2020 through October 2020 and to submit a report to the Senate by December 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in response to Senate Resolution No. 28, the Louisiana Department of Health advised of its inability to complete the required report due to funding and clinical research needed; that it did not consider the resolution as a health care- and clinical- related policy, but rather clinical and academic research, that the department did not have the capacity nor the in-house expertise to conduct a clinical study, and that the department was concerned that some data points would be unavailable or difficult to obtain, as in the case where medication was donated or it was used in outpatient treatment; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center -
New Orleans, health care services division, is to work and team collaboratively with other
organizations to advance quality and efficiency in care delivery and positively impact health
and health care for Louisiana’s citizens; and

WHEREAS, hydroxychloroquine, also known as hydroxychloroquine sulfate, was
approved for medical use in the United States in 1955; and

WHEREAS, hydroxychloroquine is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, and
can be used to prevent malaria; and

WHEREAS, hydroxychloroquine has been proposed as a treatment for COVID-19
and has been the focus of several randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials across
the United States and parts of Canada; and

WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Department of Health, as of October 19,
2020, there have been 2,594,376 COVID-19 tests administered; 175,982 confirmed
COVID-19 diagnoses; and 5,566 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.8 million Louisianians are enrolled in the state Medicaid
program; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid recipients’ services covered and outcomes achieved are
reliable and readily available data sets that can be used to determine the use and results of
hydroxychloroquine.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
does hereby authorize and direct the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana State
University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, health care services division, to report on
the use and results of hydroxychloroquine for treating Medicaid recipients relative to
COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include the following
information for a control period of March 2020 through October 2020:

(1) The number of Medicaid recipients who were taking hydroxychloroquine for
rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, or to prevent malaria during the control period and tested
positive for COVID-19.

(a) Of those recipients who tested positive for COVID-19, how many were
hospitalized and what was the duration of the hospitalization.
(b) Of those recipients who tested positive for COVID-19, how many deaths occurred whether hospitalized or not.

(2) The number of Medicaid recipients who were not taking hydroxychloroquine for rheumatoid arthritis or lupus, or to prevent malaria during the control period, tested positive for COVID-19, and were treated with hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 post-exposure prophylaxis.

(a) Of those recipients treated with hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 post-exposure prophylaxis, how many were hospitalized and what was the duration of the hospitalization.

(b) Of those recipients treated with hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 post-exposure prophylaxis, how many deaths occurred, whether hospitalized or not.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report to the Senate shall be provided no later than December 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and to the chancellor of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, health care services division.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST
SR 217 Original 2021 Regular Session Fesi

Directs the La. Department of Health and the LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, health care services division, to report to the Senate no later than on December 1, 2021, on the use and results of hydroxychloroquine for treating Medicaid recipients relative to COVID-19 between March 2020 through October 2020.