

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to issue guidance or regulations by December 31, 2020, to allow the establishment of new opioid treatment programs.

WHEREAS, a more robust comprehensive treatment system is needed, to help individuals with opioid use disorder get the treatment they need through opioid treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, the number of opioid-related deaths in Louisiana was one hundred and fifty percent higher in 2017 than in 2012; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2018, Louisianans spent seven thousand eight hundred eighty-six days in emergency departments for incidents related to opioids, with related Medicaid costs exceeding one million eight hundred thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2018, Louisiana saw nine thousand eight hundred thirty-four hospital admissions related to opioids, with related Medicaid costs exceeding thirty-nine million seven hundred thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has recognized that medication-assisted treatment of opioid use disorder, in combination with counseling and behavior therapies, can successfully treat opioid use disorder and help sustain recovery; and

WHEREAS, SAMHSA has developed guidelines for opioid treatment programs to provide medication-assisted treatment, as well as a range of other treatments; and

WHEREAS, a panel of experts convened to study the opioid epidemic in Louisiana recommended in December 2018 that Louisiana undertake the following steps, among others, to address opioid addiction in Louisiana:

- (1) Expand access to evidenced-based treatment for opioid addiction.
- (2) Establish a statewide quality improvement system for addiction treatment.
- (3) Address addiction as a chronic illness.
- (4) Expand the use of peer recovery specialists for those with opioid use disorder.

- (5) Invest in models of care to support women and families; and

WHEREAS, individuals in rural parishes do not have adequate access to medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorder.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to issue guidance or regulations to allow the establishment of new opioid treatment programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in considering the expansion of new opioid treatment programs, the Louisiana Department of Health shall consider all of the following:

- (1) Developing an application process for new opioid treatment programs that may prioritize the expansion of organizations already operating opioid treatment programs in the state and in good standing with the office of behavioral health, and the integration of new sites with federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and health systems.

- (2) Providing new opioid treatment programs that offer all three Food and Drug Administration-approved medications for opioid use disorder, and deliver services to patients covered under the Medicaid program.

- (3) Considering for new opioid treatment programs rural parishes with higher rates of overdose deaths.

- (4) Consider entering opioid treatment programs into partnerships with providers offering physical health services, such as federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, or health systems, either by direct integration with these facilities, co-location or providing physical health services within the opioid treatment program. These partnerships should prioritize the screening and treatment of comorbid conditions, such as Hepatitis C and HIV.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new guidance or regulations for opioid treatment programs be issued by the Louisiana Department of Health by December 31, 2020.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE