

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY SENATORS GATTI, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES BAGLEY, COX, JACKSON, LEBAS, MAGEE AND WILLMOTT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the United States Department of Defense and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to coordinate efforts to provide information to military families regarding services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

WHEREAS, our military families make great sacrifices to protect the rights and freedoms that make this country the greatest nation in the world; and

WHEREAS, part of that sacrifice includes moving frequently, uprooting families and starting anew in different states or different countries every few years; and

WHEREAS, for families with children who have intellectual or developmental disabilities these sacrifices can often be an added challenge as many states have waiting lists for services available to their children that often outlast the families' duration in the state, forcing them to start at the bottom of the waiting list each time they are required to relocate; and

WHEREAS, to help mitigate this challenge, it is imperative that military families know of all options available to them through both federal and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense established the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program to provide \$36,000 of additional coverage for active duty sponsored family members with condition-specific developmental disability needs; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals administers the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Residential Options Waiver (ROW), Supports Waiver (SW) and the Children's Choice Waiver (CC) which provide home-and-community-based services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that regardless of the entry point into the developmental disability system, military families be informed of all options available to them in order to make informed decisions about their health care; and

WHEREAS, appropriate referrals should be made by the United States Department of Defense and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to ensure that military families are aware of the services available to them and are able to apply for and secure services or placement on waiting lists.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Department of Defense and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to coordinate efforts to provide information to military families regarding services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agencies share informational brochures and fact sheets regarding their programs and services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities that can easily be provided to military families regardless of where they present themselves to apply for services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agencies work together to address the unique needs of our military families that are in need of services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the United States Department of Defense and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES