

2019 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY SENATOR HEWITT

HEALTH DEPARTMENT. Requests the La. Department of Health to add Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) to the state's newborn screening panel.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to take such actions as are necessary to add Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) to the newborn screening panel of this state.

WHEREAS, SMA is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, diminishing all physical strength, impeding the ability to walk, swallow, and in severe cases, the ability to breathe; and

WHEREAS, SMA is the leading genetic cause of death for infants today, annually affecting approximately one out of eleven thousand babies born nationwide and approximately six babies born in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, SMA is detectable through genetic testing, and early detection of this disorder is vital to ensure the expedited treatment and survival of babies born with SMA; and

WHEREAS, newborn screening identifies babies with congenital disorders like SMA; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar approved the recommendation of the Federal Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (ACHDNC) to add testing for SMA to the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP) for newborns; and

1           WHEREAS, nearly four million newborns are screened annually in the United States  
2 for numerous diseases, and seven states are currently screening for SMA; and

3           WHEREAS, screening for SMA in a newborn is not included in Louisiana's current  
4 newborn screening panel.

5           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
6 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to take such actions as are necessary  
7 to add SMA to the newborn screening panel of this state.

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

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christine Arbo Peck.

---

SCR 16 Original

DIGEST  
2019 Regular Session

Hewitt

Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to take such actions as are necessary to add  
Spinal Muscular Atrophy to the newborn screening panel of this state.