2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 82

BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA

CHILDREN/DCFS: Requests the Department of Children and Family Services to eliminate the waiver of work requirements for persons receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to eliminate the waiver
3	of work requirements for persons receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
4	Program benefits and to implement a policy designed to improve enrollee health and
5	well-being through incentivizing work and community engagement among non-
6	elderly, non-pregnant adult Medicaid beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicaid on
7	a basis other than disability.
8	WHEREAS, Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended,
9	provides that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) shall be eligible to
10	participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program as a member of any household
11	if the individual received program benefits for more than three months during any three year
12	period if the individual was subject to but did not comply with the ABAWD work
13	requirement; and
14	WHEREAS, Section 6(0) also provides that, upon request of a state agency, the
15	secretary may waive the applicability of the three-month ABAWD time limit for any group
16	of individuals in the state if the secretary makes a determination that the area in which the
17	individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over ten percent, or does not have a
18	sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals; and

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Family Services requested to waive the 2 ABAWD time limit throughout the state from September 1, 2017 through August 21, 2018; 3 and 4 WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Family Services supported its request 5 based upon the state having an average unemployment rate twenty percent above the 6 national average for the twenty-four month period of September 2014 through August 2016; 7 and 8 WHEREAS, during this time period the national average unemployment rate was 9 five and two tenths percent; Louisiana's unemployment rate was over six percent; and 10 WHEREAS, the policy of this state must be designed to encourage self-sufficiency 11 so that recipients may reduce dependence on public benefits to meet basic needs and become 12 economically self-reliant. 13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 14 urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services to eliminate the waiver 15 of work requirements for certain persons receiving benefits and to implement a policy 16 designed to improve enrollee health and well-being through incentivizing work and 17 community engagement among non-elderly, non-pregnant adult Medicaid beneficiaries who 18 are eligible for Medicaid on a basis other than disability. 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge and request that 20 the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services refrain from applying for 21 a waiver of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program work requirements for able-bodied 22 adults without dependents absent legislative authorization. 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 24 secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Requests the Department of Children and Family Services to eliminate the waiver of work requirements for certain persons receiving benefits and to implement a policy designed to improve enrollee health and well-being through incentivizing work and community engagement among non-elderly, non-pregnant adult Medicaid beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicaid on a basis other than disability.

Requests the Dept. of Children and Family Services refrain from applying for a waiver of SNAP work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents absent legislative authorization.