

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH AND SENATORS ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PEACOCK, PETERSON, PRICE, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Insurance to conduct a study concerning health insurance coverage of interpreter services for the deaf and hard of hearing in healthcare settings and to report findings of the study to the legislative committees on insurance and on health and welfare.

WHEREAS, as affirmed in Act No. 146 of the 2017 Regular Session and Act No. 811 of the 2014 Regular Session, the Legislature of Louisiana intends that the deaf and hard of hearing and all other persons with disabilities be treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, the policy of this state is to foster equality in access to services by all people regardless of whether they have a disability; and

WHEREAS, equality in access to health services is vital to the well-being of all communities in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, having access to a qualified interpreter is often essential for a person who is deaf or hard of hearing to receive necessary and appropriate treatment in a healthcare setting; and

WHEREAS, health insurance coverage of interpreter services for the deaf and hard of hearing in healthcare settings promotes access to health services consistent with the policies and values of this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Insurance to conduct a study concerning health insurance coverage of interpreter services for the deaf and hard of hearing in healthcare settings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall consider, at minimum, the extent to which such coverage is available currently in this state, the potential level of demand for such coverage in this state, and the costs and benefits of an expansion of such coverage in this state to meet potential demand.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall encompass privately issued health insurance, state group benefits plans, Medicare and Medicare supplement plans, and coverage offered by the Medicaid managed care organizations of this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if requested by the commissioner of insurance, the following parties shall assist and collaborate in producing the study called for in this Resolution:

- (1) The commissioner of administration or his designee.
- (2) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- (3) The executive director of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Insurance shall issue a report of findings from the study called for in this Resolution to the House Committee on Insurance, the Senate Committee on Insurance, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of insurance, the commissioner of administration, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and to the executive director and each member of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE