

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 76

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to collect data regarding the age, race, and gender of Louisiana residents who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic or any future public health emergency.

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus named "coronavirus disease 2019", commonly referred to as COVID-19, was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province China, in December of 2019; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that has a broad range of symptoms from mild, flu-like symptoms to severe breathing difficulties that result in death; and

WHEREAS, the first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread of the virus in the United States was recorded on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on the same day the World Health Organization declared the outbreak "a public health emergency of international concern"; and

WHEREAS, the rapid spread of COVID-19 lead the World Health Organization to upgrade its declaration to a "global pandemic" on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, since the first presumptive case relating to the COVID-19 pandemic in Louisiana was announced on March 9, 2020, cases have been confirmed in all sixty-four parishes of the state, and Governor John Bel Edwards has issued multiple proclamations and orders aimed at preventing and reducing the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the coronavirus in Louisiana is widespread and ongoing, with both immediate and potentially long-term risk to the life, health, and well-being of all Louisiana residents; and

WHEREAS, throughout this time, the Louisiana Department of Health has tracked and updated on a daily basis the number of confirmed cases in the state, as well as the number of COVID-19-related deaths, and the number of tests performed and completed; and

WHEREAS, state leaders require adequate data to determine if the impact of a public health emergency has not fallen equitably among Louisianians but has created a disproportionate burden among certain populations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to collect data from reporting health care providers or other persons regarding the age, race, and gender of Louisiana residents who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic or any future public health emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall notify all Louisiana-licensed health care providers to submit demographic data to include race, age, and gender to the department for all of their patients who are Louisiana residents and test positive for COVID-19 in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that health care providers are urged to be responsive to the department and submit the requested demographic data including race, age, and gender to the department for all of their patients who are Louisiana residents and test positive for COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon collecting a complete data set, the department shall establish and maintain on its internet website a link to this data that is easily accessible by the public.

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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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE