

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY REPRESENTATIVES BUTLER, CARRIER, EDMONSTON, FREEMAN, MIKE JOHNSON, KERNER, LANDRY, NEWELL, AND VILLIO AND SENATOR BERNARD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study potential means for financing dental care for adult residents of intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to report findings of the study to the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the legislative committees on health and welfare.

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are treasured members of our families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the legislature works to foster a culture of inclusion and equal access to services for people with disabilities in our state; and

WHEREAS, intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, known commonly as ICF/DD and ICF/ID, are residential facilities at which children and adults with special needs receive individualized health care and habilitation services; and

WHEREAS, state regulations concerning Medicaid funding of ICF/ID (LAC 50:VII.30101 et seq.) provide for a system of per diem payments to these facilities, which payments fund care and services for facility residents who are Medicaid enrollees; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid-enrollees over age twenty-one residing in ICF/ID have limited access to dental care; and

WHEREAS, routine and preventive dental care is important to a person's overall health, and many states have found that investing in preventive dental care for Medicaid enrollees saves public dollars on a net cost basis by preventing emergency room visits and expensive, complicated treatments arising from neglect of oral health; and

WHEREAS, policymakers in Louisiana have recently considered proposed legislation providing for Medicaid dental coverage for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, a cause for which advocates for this population have been fighting for many years; and

WHEREAS, policymakers must often consider not only the state fiscal impact of prospective policy changes, but also the effects of existing state policy and the proposed changes on Louisiana families and businesses; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 172 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature (HB 172) proposed to institute a dental coverage requirement in the state Medicaid program for all persons age twenty-one or older who are either enrolled in a Medicaid waiver program for persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities or reside in an ICF/ID facility; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health administers the Medicaid program of this state; and

WHEREAS, the department has indicated that if funding is available, and subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, it could provide Medicaid dental coverage for adult waiver program enrollees as proposed in HB No. 172; but that, even with funding availability, reimbursement for dental services delivered to ICF/ID residents would still have complicating factors relating to the way that per diem payments to these facilities are structured.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study potential means for financing dental care for adult residents of intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall report its finding to the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, 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 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE