

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY SENATORS CARTER, BOUDREAUX, JACKSON-ANDREWS AND LUNEAU

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to apply to participate in the CMS Transforming Maternal Health Model.

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the new Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) Model designed to improve maternal health care for people enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); and

WHEREAS, the model will support participating state Medicaid agencies in the development of a whole-person approach to pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care that addresses the physical health, mental health, and health-related social needs experienced during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the model is to reduce disparities in access and treatment and improve outcomes and experiences for mothers and their newborns, while also reducing overall program expenditures; and

WHEREAS, TMaH's initiatives will center on three main pillars: access to care, infrastructure, and workforce capacity; quality improvement and safety; and whole-person care delivery; and

WHEREAS, TMaH will work with participating states to address gaps in maternal health care through activities like supporting access to midwives and doulas, improving prenatal care for chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension, and reducing complicated procedures like c-sections for low-risk mothers; and

WHEREAS, TMaH will promote a more positive and supportive care experience and will allow mothers to play an active role in the development of their birth plan, and feel that their physical health, mental health, and health-related social needs are met; and

WHEREAS, all participating state Medicaid agencies will develop and implement a health equity plan that addresses disparities among underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, participating state Medicaid agencies will also support the extension of Medicaid and CHIP postpartum coverage to twelve months to promote preventive care, overall health, and reduction of care costs; and

WHEREAS, the model has a three-year preimplementation period, during which states receive targeted technical assistance to advance each model element and achieve required preimplementation milestones, and a seven-year implementation period to execute the model; and

WHEREAS, applications for state Medicaid agencies to participate in the model are due in Summer 2024.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to apply to participate in the CMS Transforming Maternal Health Model.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES