

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Department of Health's launching of Project Maternal Overdose Mortality (Project M.O.M.).

WHEREAS, accidental opioid overdose has been the leading cause of pregnancy-associated death in Louisiana since 2018; and

WHEREAS, every preventable death is a tragedy, but the death of a pregnant woman or young mom doubles the tragedy, as the loss of the mother endangers her child; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the urgent crisis of accidental opioid overdose as the leading cause of pregnancy-associated death, the Louisiana Department of Health has launched Project Maternal Overdose Mortality (Project M.O.M.); and

WHEREAS, the goal of Project M.O.M. is to reduce pregnancy-associated opioid overdose deaths by eighty percent within three years by scaling best practices and pilot programs across Louisiana that increase substance use screening across prenatal providers and facilities, increase availability and access to substance use disorder treatments including medications for opioid use disorder, improve care coordination for pregnant and postpartum women, including linking emergency department overdoses to rapid outpatient treatment, and increase accessibility of lifesaving medications including naloxone to prevent overdose mortality; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has several successful initiatives across the state that support Project M.O.M.; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Bridge Program has been implemented in five hospitals in the Lake Charles region; and

WHEREAS, this region saw a thirty-five percent decrease in overdose mortality after the Bridge expansion, while the rest of Louisiana's overdose rates were actually increasing; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Bridge Program is an intervention designed to address the alarming rate of overdose deaths by scaling up buprenorphine access, patient navigation programs, harm reduction services, and take-home naloxone in emergency departments; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's program provides continuity of care to persons entering emergency departments with substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative works with birthing facilities across the state to improve screening and harm reduction for mothers and infants impacted by substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, as of 2025, forty-five birthing hospitals participate in this effort to increase screening and offer brief intervention; and

WHEREAS, additionally, in 2024, five hospitals participated in the Naloxone Project, and nearly one hundred moms walked out of the hospital with this lifesaving opioid referral agent in hand; and

WHEREAS, over seven thousand naloxone kits have been distributed to thirty-eight birthing hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge has opened the nation's fourth perinatal mental health unit; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Angels in Bogalusa developed a specialized Family Medicine-OB Partnership to expand access to medications for opioid use disorder for pregnant women with substance use disorder and to provide integrated primary care throughout their journey; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Angels has also implemented targeted treatment plans for infants exposed to substances that improved withdrawal care, shortened hospital stays, and supported mother-infant bonding; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health is working to expand the number of residential substance use facilities where a woman's newborn and children can live with their mom who is receiving care; and

WHEREAS, prior to 2024, there were three residential substance use facilities in Louisiana and that number is expected to increase to nine by 2026; and

WHEREAS, through the expansion of these initiatives, Project M.O.M. has the potential to save many lives and preserve families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Department of Health on launching Project M.O.M.

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