

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to post the Five-Star Quality Rating for each Louisiana nursing home on its website.

WHEREAS, the decision to place a loved one in a nursing home is a somber realization that a person can no longer care for themselves; and

WHEREAS, selecting the right nursing facility can be an overwhelming process that leaves family members with conflicting emotions of doing the right thing to ensure proper care and the feeling of helplessness that comes with relinquishing that responsibility to someone else; and

WHEREAS, the quality of nursing facilities can vary significantly and it is important that the public is aware of any issues with a facility before entrusting it to care for a member of the incredibly vulnerable elderly population; and

WHEREAS, family members need access to reliable data in selecting the nursing home that is best for their loved one; and

WHEREAS, an invaluable piece of data is the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Five-Star Quality Rating System; and

WHEREAS, the Five-Star Quality Rating System reflects a nursing home's rating for health inspections, quality measures, and staffing, factors that are all critically important in selecting a nursing home for a loved one; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health's website currently includes a nursing home directory feature; and

WHEREAS, prominently displaying a link to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Five-Star Quality Rating System-Nursing Home Care Compare on the department website's nursing home directory feature would allow families easy access to that critical information; and

WHEREAS, access to the Five-Star Quality Rating will help families make better choices for the long-term care of their loved ones and encourage nursing homes to strive to maintain their high scores or to improve their scores.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to post a link to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Five-Star Quality Rating System-Nursing Home Care Compare on the department website's nursing home directory feature.

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