

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 170

BY SENATOR TALBOT

A RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the Department of Insurance to create a task force to study, jointly with the Louisiana Department of Health, the feasibility of forming an independent review board to assist cancer patients and healthcare providers with prior authorization processes that do not comply with the Cancer Patient's Right to Prompt Coverage Act.

WHEREAS, cancer is a leading cause of death and disability in the United States and globally, affecting millions of individuals and their families each year; and

WHEREAS, early detection, prompt diagnosis, and timely initiation of treatment significantly improve outcomes and survival rates for cancer patients; and

WHEREAS, prior authorization requirements from insurance providers can delay access to life-saving treatments, diagnostics, imaging, and medications; and

WHEREAS, delays in care due to prior authorization bottlenecks can lead to disease progression, increased patient anxiety, avoidable hospitalizations, and reduced quality of life; and

WHEREAS, cancer treatments often involve complex and rapidly evolving therapeutic regimens that require urgent decision-making and clinical flexibility; and

WHEREAS, multiple professional medical societies, including the American Society of Clinical Oncology, have called for streamlined and expedited prior authorization processes in oncology care; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Louisiana Legislature enacted the Cancer Patient's Right to Prompt Coverage Act requiring health insurance issuers to offer an expedited review of prior authorization requests for any services typically covered under a health plan and related to the diagnosis or treatment of cancer; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Louisiana Department of Health is to protect and promote health for all residents of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Insurance is the state regulator of the insurance industry in Louisiana and serves as advocate for the state's insurance consumers; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure cancer patients receive timely access to medically necessary treatments, it is vital for the Department of Insurance to study, jointly with the Department of Health, and make recommendations on establishing state resources to oversee and improve the prior authorization process in oncology care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and request the Department of Insurance to create a task force to study, jointly with the Department of Health, the feasibility of forming an independent review board to assist cancer patients and healthcare providers with prior authorization processes that do not comply with the Cancer Patient's Right to Prompt Coverage Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of interested stakeholders, including but not limited to the following members:

- (1) The commissioner of insurance.
- (2) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.
- (3) The executive director of the Louisiana State Medical Society.
- (4) The executive director of the Louisiana Oncology Society.
- (5) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans.
- (6) The executive director of the Cancer Association of Louisiana.
- (7) The executive director of the Louisiana Hospital Association.
- (8) A board-certified oncologist.
- (9) A clinical pharmacist specializing in oncology medications.
- (10) A patient advocate with lived experience in cancer care.
- (11) A representative of the American Society of Clinical Oncologists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the task force shall do all of the following:

- (1) Make a comprehensive, evidence-driven, and patient-centered review of insurers' current prior authorization procedures relative to compliance with the Cancer Patient's Right to Prompt Coverage Act.
- (2) Evaluate possible solutions including but not limited to a comparison of policies,

procedures, and best practices used by other states.

(3) Make recommendations on establishing state resources to oversee and improve the prior authorization process in oncology care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may engage and solicit input, recommendations, and guidance from any interested person.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commissioner of insurance shall serve as the chairman of the task force and the staff of the Department of Insurance shall provide support to the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each member of the task force may appoint a designee who shall serve on the task force on his behalf.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the names of proposed members of the task force shall be submitted to the commissioner of insurance by August 1, 2025, and the commissioner of insurance shall thereafter call the first meeting of the task force by September 15, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the task force, and any official action by the task force shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meetings of the task force shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq., and records of the task force shall be subject to the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et seq.; however, any personally identifiable information or claims, reimbursement, and other data or information provided by a health insurer, health plan, or other insurance issuer shall be kept confidential.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet as necessary and provide a written report of its findings from the study, together with any recommendations for legislation, to the Senate and House committees on insurance, the Senate and House committees on health and welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library no later than December 31, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate upon the date of submission of its report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of insurance and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE