

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 314

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

HEALTH CARE: Requests that the Louisiana Department of Health provide information and resources on immunization-preventable diseases and to improve access to immunization services in rural and low-income communities across this state

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to provide information and
3 resources on immunization-preventable diseases and to improve access to
4 immunization services in rural and low-income communities across this state.

5 WHEREAS, access to immunizations is an essential part of safeguarding the health
6 and wellbeing of individuals, families, schools, and communities throughout this state; and

7 WHEREAS, certain areas of the state, including rural communities and lower-income
8 communities, face challenges in accessing immunization services, such as distance from
9 providers, lack of transportation, healthcare workforce shortages, and new barriers to
10 immunization information and accessibility; and

11 WHEREAS, increasing immunization rates in underserved communities not only
12 protects public health but also reduces preventable hospitalizations and emergency room
13 visits, ultimately saving the state significant healthcare costs, including Medicaid dollars;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, approximately eighty percent of the land area of this state is rural,
16 twenty-six percent of Louisiana residents live in rural areas, and nineteen percent of
17 Louisianans live below the poverty line; and

18 WHEREAS, outbreaks of diseases preventable by immunization have increased
19 across the United States, and this state is at risk of an outbreak of diseases such as measles,
20 mumps, rubella, and pertussis; and

1 WHEREAS, all residents of this state, regardless of location, deserve the opportunity
2 to protect themselves and their families from preventable illnesses; and

3 WHEREAS, preventing the spread of communicable diseases saves lives and reduces
4 overall healthcare costs; and

5 WHEREAS, targeted efforts such as mobile health clinics, expanded pharmacy
6 partnerships, and community outreach initiatives have demonstrated effectiveness in
7 increasing immunization rates in rural and hard-to-reach areas; and

8 WHEREAS, supporting local solutions that reflect the specific needs of each
9 community helps ensure the efficient use of resources and stronger public health outcomes.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
11 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health
12 to provide comprehensive and accurate information on immunization-preventable diseases
13 and to direct resources toward improving access to immunization services in rural,
14 low-income, and otherwise underserved communities where logistical, geographic, or
15 economic barriers exist.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
17 of Louisiana encourages health agencies, elected officials, and community leaders to
18 collaborate in identifying gaps in immunization access and to respond with practical, locally
19 tailored strategies.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
21 of Louisiana remains committed to supporting efforts that ensure all of the residents of this
22 state, regardless of geography, can make informed decisions and access preventive care
23 when and where it is needed.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 314 Original

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