

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress and urge the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services to increase pay rates for direct care support workers.

WHEREAS, direct care support workers (DCSWs) such as nursing assistants, home health aides, and personal care aides provide essential services to individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and other vulnerable populations in inpatient care facilities, home care settings, and community-based programs; and

WHEREAS, DCSWs play a critical role in ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of those they serve often providing assistance with daily living activities, medical care, and emotional support; and

WHEREAS, despite the essential nature of their work, DCSWs are significantly underpaid, leading to high turnover rates, staffing shortages, and compromised care quality; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the average hourly rate for DCSWs in Louisiana was approximately nine dollars per hour; and

WHEREAS, the demand for DCSWs continues to rise due to an aging population and increasing needs for long-term support services; and

WHEREAS, inadequate pay has led to a workforce crisis, reducing the availability of qualified professionals and increasing strain on existing caregivers; and

WHEREAS, increased wages would improve workforce retention, enhance the quality of care, and provide economic stability for these essential workers; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, has taken steps to increase wages for DCSWs and meet the need for quality care for one of this state's most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, federal programs such as Medicaid and Medicare set reimbursement rates that directly impact the wages of DCSWs, and federal action is needed to ensure adequate funding for increased pay.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress and urge federal agencies, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to revise reimbursement structures, and implement higher wages for DCSWs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE