

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 314

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES