

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 218

BY REPRESENTATIVES ECHOLS AND CHASSION

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to develop and implement an institutional special needs plan to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities face complex medical, behavioral, and social challenges that require highly coordinated and specialized care; and

WHEREAS, many individuals in this state are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and reside in intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, group homes, or receive services through home- and community-based services under Medicaid waivers; and

WHEREAS, these individuals often experience fragmented care, high rates of hospitalization, and limited access to preventive services, contributing to poor health outcomes and inefficient use of public resources; and

WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities would benefit from a specialized institutional special needs plan (I-SNP) integrating both Medicare and Medicaid benefits under a unified care model; and

WHEREAS, the I-SNP would be operated by a coordinated care organization in partnership with the ARC of Louisiana, managed care entities, and a Medicare Advantage Organization ensuring oversight and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the plan includes comprehensive medical and behavioral health services, long-term services and supports, rehabilitation therapies, vocational and employment assistance, and intensive care coordination; and

WHEREAS, the plan prioritizes innovations such as integrated electronic health records, mobile health teams, housing navigation, respite care, enhanced dental and vision benefits, and nutrition and wellness programs; and

WHEREAS, quality and accountability would be ensured through value-based payment models, outcome-focused metrics, independent oversight boards, and member satisfaction surveys tailored to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, implementation would occur through a phased rollout beginning in high-need parishes with eventual statewide expansion, guided by partnerships with stakeholders and supported by federal waiver flexibility through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

WHEREAS, successful implementation of such a plan would lead to improved health outcomes, increased independence and employment among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, higher caregiver satisfaction, and significant cost savings to both state and federal healthcare programs.

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 develop, in collaboration with the ARC of Louisiana and other key stakeholders, a statewide I-SNP for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall coordinate with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to obtain necessary waivers to align long-term services and supports with Medicare benefits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the surgeon general, and the governor.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES