2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 297

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Department of Health to jointly study and develop recommendations to ensure the continuity and preservation of school-based health center services if a public school undergoes a change in operational control or governance.

WHEREAS, school-based health centers, or SBHCs, are not a new creation and have been utilized as early as the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, SBHCs are staffed with a team of trained healthcare professionals, such as physicians, nurses, and mental health counselors, which allows SBHCs to provide critical and comprehensive health services to students, including primary care, behavioral health, and preventive services directly to students on school campuses; and

WHEREAS, SBHCs have a proven track record of improving health outcomes by addressing and reducing challenges caused by health disparities and increasing access to healthcare to underserved student populations; and

WHEREAS, since SBHCs are located on school campuses, SBHCs are able to provide onsite healthcare services, which provides less burdensome access to care for students and which sequentially leads to a reduction in absenteeism and enhances academic performance; and

WHEREAS, in addition to collaborating with schools, SBHCs often collaborate with healthcare organizations and community partners to not only provide health services to students but also to provide necessary resources to parents and school staff; and

WHEREAS, any disruptions to these collaborations, particularly changes in school operators such as charter conversions, management transitions, or shifts in district oversight, can create gaps or interruptions in SBHC services due to administrative, contractual, or logistical challenges; and

WHEREAS, any disruption in school governance can lead to reduced school effectiveness, delayed or ineffective policy implementation, and increased stress among school staff, students, and parents; and

WHEREAS, due to SBHCs proven track record, it is clear that the preservation of these vital services during such transitions is essential to protect the health and well-being of students and families who depend on them; and

WHEREAS, there is a compelling need for formalized recommendations that outline responsibilities, timelines, and best practices for maintaining SBHC operations during times of change in school governance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Department of Health to work jointly to study and develop recommendations to ensure the continuity and preservation of school-based health centers if a public school undergoes a change in operational control or governance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments shall collaborate with stakeholders including but not limited to SBHC providers, school operators, local education agencies, and community partners in the development of recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1)   A recommended process for notifying and engaging SBHC providers in advance of anticipated transitions.

(2)   Guidance on preserving or renegotiating facility access agreements or memoranda of understanding (MOUs).

(3)   Model language for contractual provisions between schools and operators to protect SBHC service continuity.

(4)   Identification of statutory or regulatory barriers to SBHC continuity and recommendations to address such barriers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments shall publish the recommendations on their websites no later than sixty days prior to the 2026 Regular Session.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES