

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 187

BY SENATOR MCMATH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request Louisiana medical schools to integrate courses on nutrition and metabolic health into the medical school curriculum.

WHEREAS, many medical schools across the United States provide minimal nutrition education despite lifestyle factors being the root of most chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, this represents a major gap in physician training and lends itself to a reliance on prescription drugs as the first line of defense on treating chronic conditions; and

WHEREAS, nutrition is a major contributor to the rise of chronic diseases like obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and certain types of cancer; and

WHEREAS, nutrition plays a crucial role in patient well-being and with proper nutrition, a person may be able to avoid certain chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, awareness of the impact of diet and poor nutrition on a person's overall health is rapidly evolving and new studies are emerging that will change the food people purchase and what they prepare and consume for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, physicians with nutrition training can provide more targeted and effective advice to patients, helping them make informed choices about their diet and lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, nutrition education can help physicians better understand the link between dietary patterns and chronic diseases, enabling them to implement strategies for prevention and early intervention; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based nutrition advice can lead to improved patient outcomes and potentially reduce the need for costly interventions; and

WHEREAS, there are currently four medical schools in Louisiana, the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, the Tulane University School of Medicine, and the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine; and

WHEREAS, Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine, which will be the only HBCU medical school in the Gulf South when it opens, has the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of medical school nutrition education when it begins training physicians.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request Louisiana medical schools to integrate courses on nutrition and metabolic health into the medical school curriculum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, the chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, the senior vice president and dean of the Tulane University School of Medicine, the president of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the president of Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE