

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize Congress and urge the Department of Health and Human Services and the

3 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reconsider any policies that may lead

4 to reductions in Medicaid funding for hospitals in Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, hospitals play a vital role in delivering essential healthcare services to

6 urban and rural communities throughout Louisiana; and

7 WHEREAS, directives outlined in recent federal memoranda and guidance propose

8 to reduce the longstanding maximum amount hospitals may be reimbursed by the Medicaid

9 program; and

10 WHEREAS, hospitals in Louisiana serve as lifelines for many communities

11 especially our rural hospitals that provide essential healthcare services to residents in

12 geographically isolated and medically underserved areas; and

13 WHEREAS, hospitals face unique challenges, including workforce shortages,

14 financial instability, and limited access to specialized care; and

15 WHEREAS, reductions to Medicaid funding would exacerbate those challenges,

16 potentially leading to service cutbacks, staff reductions, or even closures of hospitals; and

17 WHEREAS, the closure or reduced capacity of hospitals would disproportionately

18 affect vulnerable populations, including the elderly, children, and those with chronic

19 illnesses, as well as place additional strain on remaining healthcare facilities; and

1 WHEREAS, Medicaid funding is not only essential for sustaining healthcare services
2 but also plays a critical role in supporting the economic viability of our communities since
3 hospitals often serve as major employers and economic contributors; and

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana is committed to ensuring access to quality healthcare for all
5 residents, regardless of their geographic or economic circumstances; and

6 WHEREAS, collaboration between state and federal governments is crucial to
7 address the healthcare disparities and challenges faced by communities while safeguarding
8 access to essential services.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
10 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize Congress and urge the Department of
11 Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to avoid
12 reductions in Medicaid funding that would adversely affect Louisiana's hospitals and the
13 communities they serve.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
15 of Louisiana does hereby memorialize Congress and urge the Department of Health and
16 Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately
17 approve the pending Louisiana State Directed Payment Preprints for both hospital and
18 physician payment and to not reduce total payment amounts for future rating periods.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
20 of Louisiana emphasizes the importance of sustaining the current levels of Medicaid funding
21 to ensure continued access to comprehensive healthcare services throughout the state.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
23 of Louisiana calls upon Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the
24 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to actively engage with state officials,
25 healthcare providers, and community stakeholders to develop solutions that address the
26 healthcare needs of Louisiana without undermining the financial stability of our hospitals.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 president of the United States, the vice president of the United States, the speaker of the
29 United States House of Representatives, the majority leader of the United States Senate, each
30 member of Louisiana's congressional delegation, the secretary of the United States

- 1 Department of Health and Human Services, and the administrator of the Centers for
- 2 Medicare and Medicaid Services.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Memorializes congress and urges the Dept. of Health and Human Services and CMS to avoid reductions in Medicaid funding that would adversely affect Louisiana's hospitals and the communities they serve.