

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY REPRESENTATIVES SPELL AND CHASSION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the state Department of Education, in collaboration with the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, to develop and complete a comprehensive report analyzing the current breadth, quality, and adequacy of autism support services in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder affects a significant number of individuals and families in Louisiana and requires a range of specialized support services across health, education, and community sectors; and

WHEREAS, accurate, timely, and consistent diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder is the essential gateway to early intervention and appropriate support services; and

WHEREAS, clinical assessments and diagnostic evaluations for autism spectrum disorder are performed by multiple provider types, including pediatric primary care providers, developmental-behavioral pediatricians, child psychologists, child psychiatrists, pediatric neurologists, and school psychologists; and

WHEREAS, variations in tools, protocols, training, and standards across such fields may impact diagnostic accuracy, consistency, timeliness, and equity of access to services; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration's Make America Healthy Again Commission issued the Make Our Children Healthy Again Assessment; it brings critical attention to the rising prevalence of autism spectrum disorder in the United States, highlighting it as part of an unprecedented childhood chronic health crisis and calling for urgent action to address root causes and improve outcomes for affected children; and

WHEREAS, following the federal government's leadership in prioritizing the assessment and reversal of chronic childhood conditions, including autism spectrum disorder, it is necessary to undergo a thorough evaluation of Louisiana's autism support services to ensure alignment with best practices and to address any deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, collaboration between the Louisiana Department of Health, the state Department of Education, and the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is critical to address the multifaceted needs of children with autism.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the state Department of Education, in collaboration with the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, to develop and complete a comprehensive report analyzing the current breadth, quality, and adequacy of autism support services in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include a comprehensive review and evaluation of existing clinical assessment tools, diagnostic protocols, and evaluation processes for autism spectrum disorder across all provider types including but not limited to pediatricians, developmental-behavioral pediatricians, child psychologists, child psychiatrists, pediatric neurologists, and school psychologists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include an assessment of standardization; training requirements; inter-rater reliability; adherence to current evidence-based guidelines, such as those from the American Academy of Pediatrics and DSM-5-TR; wait times; cultural and linguistic competency; access barriers; consistency of application; and overall diagnostic quality and equity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include a comparison of Louisiana's autism support services and diagnostic practices to those in other states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall identify system and service gaps; service utilization trends; reimbursement inadequacies; workforce gaps; clinical quality concerns, including diagnostic practices; fraud concerns; and any other factors deemed relevant by the Louisiana Department of Health, the state Department of Education, and the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in recognition of the Make Our Children Healthy Again Assessment's critical spotlight on autism spectrum disorder, and following the federal government's leadership on this issue, the report shall inform Louisiana's efforts to improve autism support services and outcomes for children and families in the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall be submitted to the legislature no later than January 1, 2027.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE