

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 49

BY REPRESENTATIVES FISHER AND CHASSION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to include the doctor of physical therapy degree, the master of physician assistant studies degree, and post-baccalaureate nursing degree, including advanced practice registered nursing degree and doctoral nursing degree within the definition of professional degree programs eligible for enhanced federal student loan access.

WHEREAS, the legislature affirms that such designation is essential to enable equitable access to advanced health professional education, particularly for students from rural communities in Louisiana, to support the development and retention of a robust workforce of physical therapists, physician assistants, and nurses necessary to address statewide and rural healthcare needs, to mitigate escalating healthcare costs, and to strengthen statewide public health infrastructure and long term workforce sustainability; and

WHEREAS, research shows that healthcare professionals educated locally are significantly more likely to practice in the communities where they are trained; and

WHEREAS, restricting access to federal student loan funding for students enrolled in doctor of physical therapy, master of physician assistant studies, and post-baccalaureate nursing degree programs would disproportionately affect Louisiana residents and further exacerbate rural healthcare shortages.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to include the doctor of physical therapy degree, the master of physician assistant studies degree, and post-baccalaureate nursing degree, including advanced practice registered nursing degree and doctoral nursing degree within the definition of professional degree programs eligible for enhanced federal student loan access.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE