

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 67

BY REPRESENTATIVES BUTLER, ADAMS, BACALA, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOURRIAQUE, BRASS, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CARVER, CHASSION, CHENEVERT, COATES, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, DOMANGUE, EGAN, FIRMENT, FONTENOT, FREIBERG, GLORIOSO, HEBERT, HILFERTY, HORTON, KNOX, JACOB LANDRY, MARTINEZ, MCCORMICK, MCMAKIN, MELERINE, MOORE, MUSCARELLO, OWEN, SAWYER, SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, SPELL, STAGNI, TAYLOR, VENTRELLA, VILLIO, WALTERS, WILEY, AND WYBLE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Acute Care and Crisis Response Task Force to study, in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health, gaps in acute care access for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to develop recommendations for a coordinated system of care across healthcare settings, to be known as the "Derek's Promise Study".

WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities frequently experience complex medical conditions requiring acute care services; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's current Medicaid, waiver, and facility-based systems are primarily designed for long-term supports and are not structured to adequately respond to acute medical episodes; and

WHEREAS, when individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience acute medical instability, they often face unnecessary hospitalization, delayed discharge, or disruption of services due to limitations in community- or facility-based care options; and

WHEREAS, families, caregivers, and providers encounter barriers including service caps, prior authorization delays, workforce shortages, and insufficient reimbursement for acute-level services outside hospital settings; and

WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities residing in home- and community-based waiver programs, group homes, or intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities are particularly impacted by these gaps; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state of Louisiana to ensure that medically necessary care follows the individual, and is delivered in the most appropriate and least restrictive setting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Louisiana Department of Health to conduct a comprehensive study to evaluate gaps in acute care access for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to be known as the "Derek's Promise Study".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana requests the Louisiana Department of Health to examine, at a minimum, all of the following:

(1) Gaps in acute care access, including but not limited to those affecting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities receiving services through home- and community-based waivers, licensed group homes or community homes, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and private homes supported by Medicaid-funded services.

(2) Barriers within the Medicaid and waiver systems, including but not limited to service limitations and caps during acute medical episodes, prior authorization processes and delays, workforce shortages including skilled nursing and specialized providers, and reimbursement structures that limit provider participation in acute care delivery.

(3) Hospital utilization trends, including but not limited to preventable hospital admissions, extended hospital stays due to lack of appropriate discharge options, and readmission rates associated with inadequate post-acute support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana requests the Louisiana Department of Health to develop all of the following:

(1) A coordinated intellectual and developmental disabilities acute care pathway model, including but not limited to hospital-to-home or community transition processes, acute care delivery models within community-based or facility settings, the feasibility of hospital-at-home or similar models for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and continuity of care plans across settings.

(2) Policy and funding recommendations, including but not limited to modifications to Medicaid state plan services, increased flexibility within home- and community-based

waivers during acute episodes, reimbursement adjustments to support acute-level services, and strategies to expand provider capacity and workforce.

(3) Rural and underserved access solutions, including but not limited to the use of telehealth and remote monitoring, development of mobile clinical support teams, and regional partnerships to expand access to care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana requests the Louisiana Department of Health to consult and collaborate with, at a minimum, the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, the bureau of health services financing, providers of home- and community-based services, operators of intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities and group homes, physicians and other healthcare professionals experienced in treating individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, disability advocacy organizations, family members and caregivers, and representatives of rural healthcare systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare on or before February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the "IDD Acute Care and Crisis Response Task Force" to study acute healthcare access, crisis stabilization services, care coordination, and emergency response systems for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to develop recommendations, together with any proposals for legislation, necessary to improve healthcare outcomes and continuity of care for such individuals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall provide staffing and administrative support for the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee.
- (2) The assistant secretary of the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, or his designee.
- (3) The director of the Louisiana Medicaid program, or his designee.

(4) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

(5) One representative of a hospital system that provides acute care services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

(6) One physician with experience treating individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

(7) One representative from a behavioral health provider organization, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

(8) Two family advocates of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and one appointed by the president of the Senate.

(9) Two representatives of a community-based provider organization serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and one appointed by the president of the Senate.

(10) One member of the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet at least quarterly and shall evaluate all of the following:

(1) Gaps in acute healthcare access and crisis stabilization services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

(2) Emergency room utilization patterns, discharge barriers, and avoidable hospitalizations involving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

(3) Workforce shortages affecting continuity of care and access to specialized healthcare services.

(4) The availability of specialized treatment programs, crisis response resources, and transitional care options.

(5) Opportunities for regional pilot programs, coordinated care models, and partnerships between healthcare providers, behavioral health organizations, and community-based providers.

(6) Medicaid reimbursement policies and other financial or administrative barriers impacting service delivery and continuity of care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rules of Order of the House of Representatives and applicable Joint Rules shall apply to all meetings of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meetings of the task force shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq., and records of the task force shall be subject to the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation to the legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772 no later than January 15, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate following the conclusion of its business or January 30, 2027, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state agencies, departments, and offices shall cooperate with the task force and provide available data, information, and assistance necessary to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, assistant secretary of the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, and the director of the Louisiana Medicaid program.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE