

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 198

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to submit a report on the implementation of the Rural Health Transformation Program.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is an unprecedented five year federally funded investment aimed to increase healthcare access and improve healthcare outcomes for rural communities across the state; and

WHEREAS, the RHTP will focus on improving prevention and chronic disease management, strengthening workforce development, technology innovation, improving rural healthcare infrastructure, and developing innovative care models that deliver high quality, efficient, and sustainable care; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana was awarded \$208.4 million for the first year of the grant, with an estimated award of \$1.4 billion over the grant period that represents one of the top awards in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health is implementing multiple initiatives through the program, including the Rural Tech Catalyst Fund in partnership with Louisiana Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, the fund is designed to support innovative companies, entrepreneurs, healthcare organizations, and partners working to improve healthcare access, delivery, and sustainability across rural Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to federal requirements, all RHTP funds must be used by end of the federal fiscal year following the fiscal year in which funds were allotted; and

WHEREAS, the RHTP presents a tremendous opportunity for every corner of Louisiana and this program could have long-term impacts for improving our population's health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, full transparency and accountability are essential when managing this amount of money and demonstrating a successful return on investment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to submit the following reports to the Senate relative to the implementation of the Rural Health Transformation Program:

(1) No later than October 15, 2026, a report that provides the proposed program expenditures for federal Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

(2) No later than November 1, 2027, a report that provides the actual program expenditures for federal Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and proposed program expenditures for federal Fiscal Year 2027-2028.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reports shall include identification of recipients of funding and the amount of funding allocated, measurable outcomes, benchmarks, and progress in improving rural health outcomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE