

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 132

BY SENATOR CLAITOR AND REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to conduct a study on access to psychiatric medications and the costs for nonaccess to such medications.

WHEREAS, in 2012 an estimated 42.5 million adults eighteen years of age or older in the United States had a mental illness in the past year; and

WHEREAS, this represents 18.2 percent of United States adults; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 approximately 19.28 percent of adults age eighteen years of age or older in Louisiana had a mental illness in the past year which is above the national average during that same time period; and

WHEREAS, it is suggested that more than forty percent of mental health patients are not compliant with their medications; and

WHEREAS, noncompliance can be a result of not fully understanding side effects, lack of education about the medication, irregular attendance to clinic, and access to medication; and

WHEREAS, access to medication may become a particular issue in Louisiana since the Medicaid managed care organizations will manage behavioral health, including pharmacy and medical, for Louisiana Medicaid recipients effective December 2015; and

WHEREAS, there will be five different formulary committees and may have different access criteria to psychiatric medications that Medicaid patients are currently stabilized on or needed to be started on; and

WHEREAS, noncompliance with atypical antipsychotics leads to hospitalization, incarceration, suicide, loss of productivity, and other issues and problems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to conduct a study on access to psychiatric medications and the costs for nonaccess to such medications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department report its findings to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare on or before January 1, 2016.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES