

2016 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Insurance to compare and contrast health insurance reimbursement rates to medical providers in the metropolitan regions of Louisiana and with health insurance reimbursement rates in similar metropolitan regions of the United States.

WHEREAS, affordable and available healthcare is a necessity for ensuring the health and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, many areas of Louisiana are currently confronting, or will soon be confronting, a shortage of doctors in all areas of medical practice; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of doctors is caused in some part by the higher reimbursement rates available in some areas and not in other areas, resulting in physicians practicing in areas with higher reimbursement rates; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana and the other states of the United States rely on health insurance policies to pay for medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, health insurance premiums are directly tied to reimbursement rates; and

WHEREAS, every citizen is now required by federal law to obtain a policy of health insurance that contains specified minimum coverages.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Insurance to perform a study that compares and contrasts the health insurance reimbursement rates paid to medical providers in each of the metropolitan regions of Louisiana and in similar metropolitan regions of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Insurance is urged to determine whether higher reimbursement rates paid by health insurers in certain metropolitan regions result in higher insurance premiums paid by the residents of those regions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Insurance is urged to determine whether the ability of certain health systems to command higher reimbursement rates than competing health systems is likely to lead to less competition and thereby increase consumer health costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Insurance is urged to take testimony from health insurers, doctors, hospital administrators, and other interested parties as part of the study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Insurance is urged to report its findings to the House Committee on Insurance on or before January 15, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of insurance.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES