## SLS 19RS-459

## **ORIGINAL**

2019 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY SENATOR MILLS

HEALTH CARE. Requests the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana Department of Education to coordinate an awareness effort to have children screened for scoliosis.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana Department of
3	Education to coordinate an awareness effort to have children screened for scoliosis.
4	WHEREAS, scoliosis is a condition in which the spine develops in a curved, side to
5	side "S" shaped pattern for no known cause or reason; and
6	WHEREAS, scoliosis begins developing in childhood and because its progression
7	can be gradual and painless it is most commonly undiagnosed in children until the ages of
8	ten to fourteen; and
9	WHEREAS, roughly three million new cases of scoliosis are diagnosed in the United
10	States each year; and
11	WHEREAS, screening for scoliosis is part of the routine evaluation conducted by a
12	pediatrician during an annual well child visit; and
13	WHEREAS, in Louisiana nearly every single child is covered by commercial
14	insurance or Medicaid, and as part of that health coverage is eligible and should be
15	participating in an annual well child visit with their pediatrician; and
16	WHEREAS, communication with the pediatrician is key in the early diagnosis of
17	scoliosis at the well child visit and throughout the year if signs of scoliosis are suspected in
18	the child; and

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1 WHEREAS, parents and teachers have the greatest opportunity to detect early signs 2 of scoliosis in a child, such as noticing that one shoulder blade is higher than the other, that 3 pants and hems hang unevenly, or that there is an obvious curve in the spine; and 4 WHEREAS, when a parent or teacher has any suspicion that a child may have scoliosis, communication is key to ensuring that the parent relays these concerns to the 5 6 child's pediatrician during the well child visit or as needed throughout the year; and 7 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics supports 8 and endorses a joint position statement on screening for the early detection of scoliosis in 9 adolescents issued by the American Academy of Pedicatrics, the Scoliosis Research Society, 10 the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, and the Pediatric Ortheopedic Society of 11 North America which provides for a routine screening for spine deformity by the child's 12 medical home physician as part of a preventive services visit; and 13 WHEREAS, parental awareness of the signs of scoliosis and more robust 14 communication between the parent, teachers, and the child's pediatrician can lead to a more 15 efficient screening process, potential early diagnosis, and opportunity for less invasive 16 treatments. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana 17 18 does hereby request the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana Department of 19 Education to coordinate an awareness effort to have children screened for scoliosis. 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the superintendent of the Louisiana 21 Department of Education, and the executive director of the Louisiana Chapter of the 22 23 American Academy of Pediatrics.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christine Arbo Peck.

	DIGEST	
SR 7 Original	2019 Regular Session	Mills

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