

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa, Louisiana, on the establishment of its Opioid Sparing Initiative, aimed at reducing the number of opioid prescriptions given to patients by prescribing and using opioid pain treatment only in conjunction with other proven drugs and protocols and not, generally, as the primary pain reducer.

WHEREAS, the program at Our Lady of the Angels Hospital, dubbed "Opioid Sparing", has been successful in reducing patient dependency on opioid pain relievers from the moment a surgical procedure ends and is closely monitored by healthcare professionals, beginning in the surgical recovery areas of the hospital and has been recognized for its efforts in national trade journals; and

WHEREAS, while the entire country has been affected by what is often referred to as "the opioid crisis", Louisiana, and particularly Washington Parish, has been disproportionately affected with physicians statewide writing one hundred and eight opioid prescriptions for every one hundred people in the state, a staggering reality; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated in 2016 that nearly sixty-four thousand drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States and of those, the CDC estimates that over forty-two thousand involved an opioid drug, or more than sixty percent of the total; and

WHEREAS, the CDC report also found that Washington Parish ranked second in the five Louisiana parishes that led the state in opioid deaths; and

WHEREAS, faced with these numbers and the reality that this epidemic strikes hardest in poor, rural areas similar to their parish, the Washington Parish Coalition on Human Services and Our Lady of the Angels Hospital, supported by the people of the parish, established a program with a grant from Louisiana Partnership for Success offered by the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority and the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health; and

WHEREAS, that grant allowed for the establishment of the opioid sparing effort focused on the hospital setting at Our Lady of the Angels, with surgeons, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and registered nurses collaborating and involving the entire professional staff in using, as a first step in post-surgical pain relief, transversus abdominis plane (TAP) and associated blocks which are used in many abdominal procedures and, typically, provide between sixteen and twenty hours of somatic pain relief; and

WHEREAS, the TAP blocks are ultra-sound guided and instruction in this insertion method are made available at the hospital for both nurse anesthetist students and the staff of certified registered nurse anesthetists, increasing the number of staff who are proficient in this procedure; and

WHEREAS, post-surgery, the anesthesia department follows up with all patients, either in person or by telephone, to ensure that the patient has sufficient pain relief, and most do not require any prescription oral medication of any kind for pain relief following the initial block; and

WHEREAS, this multi-disciplinary approach to an aspect of the practice of medicine that can often lead to a dependency on opioid prescription medication has proven to be an effective beginning to controlling opioid abuse, particularly when it begins with a post-surgical patient; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa and its staff have taken a proactive approach to the fight against opioid addiction by looking at the beginning of such dependency, which, for many is with post-surgical pain, and is making a difference in the lives of all their surgical patients by treating their pain, not with opioid drugs that could prove more dangerous to their lives than, perhaps, the risk of the surgery itself; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of the Angels Hospital and the Washington Parish Coalition on Human Services received a certificate recognizing completion of the first year of the grant financially enabling this new approach to pain relief; and

WHEREAS, being situated in a rural area with serious economic hardships, Our Lady of the Angels Hospital recognized the threat that opioids pose to the people in its service area and have taken a bold and courageous step toward reversing the trend of ever-increasing hospitalizations and deaths stemming from the abuse of opioid analgesics.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa, Louisiana, on the establishment of its Opioid Sparing Initiative, aimed at reducing the number of opioid prescriptions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES