



1           WHEREAS, these local news stories reported that the four privately owned treatment  
2 centers are scheduled to close on June 30, 2019; and

3           WHEREAS, officials with the Louisiana Department of Health have stated that the  
4 department has known of these impending closures for a period of months; and

5           WHEREAS, these officials also indicate that the department's office of behavioral  
6 health is working to ensure that no gap in services will occur for Medicaid enrollees  
7 currently receiving treatment at the four centers which are due to close, and that efforts are  
8 underway to build treatment capacity in the Pineville area back to current levels within three  
9 to six months of the closures; and

10           WHEREAS, it is extremely important for the state to succeed in the task of  
11 rebuilding residential treatment center capacity in central Louisiana, and for the Louisiana  
12 Department of Health to keep elected officials and the general public in the affected region  
13 apprised of where people may access the substance abuse treatment they need as existing  
14 facilities close and new facilities and services become available.

15           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
16 urge the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health to take all  
17 measures necessary to ensure adequate access to substance use disorder treatment in central  
18 Louisiana pursuant to the scheduled closure on June 30, 2019, of four residential treatment  
19 facilities in the Pineville area.

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does also urge the  
21 Louisiana Department of Health to take all of the following actions in order to ensure  
22 continuity of care for current clients of the Pineville-area treatment facilities that are  
23 scheduled to close and access to services for persons seeking treatment:

24           (1) Assist the treatment facilities that are scheduled to close in remaining open until  
25 new treatment facilities in the Pineville area are licensed and opened.

26           (2) Provide technical assistance to entities that apply for licensure of residential  
27 substance use disorder treatment facilities in the Pineville area and expedite those entities'  
28 license applications.

1           (3) Explore means by which existing properties that are underutilized or vacant but  
2 suitable for conversion for use as residential treatment facilities could be used as temporary  
3 treatment facilities until new permanent facilities are licensed and opened.

4           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of behavioral health shall submit two  
5 reports to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health  
6 and Welfare concerning the efforts called for in this Resolution to provide continuity in and  
7 rebuild substance use disorder treatment capacity in the Pineville area.

8           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of behavioral health shall submit the  
9 first report required by this Resolution on or before September 30, 2019, and shall submit  
10 the second report required by this Resolution on or before December 31, 2019.

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

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Mike Johnson

Urges the office of behavioral health of the La. Department of Health to take all measures necessary to ensure adequate access to substance use disorder treatment in central La. pursuant to the impending closure of four residential treatment facilities in the Pineville area, and to report to the legislative committees on health and welfare concerning actions to provide for this access.