

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 82

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study and report on options regarding reimbursements for nonopioid pain treatment and opioid alternatives in the Louisiana Medicaid program.

WHEREAS, there is an epidemic of opioid deaths in the United States with the number of deaths from opioid overdose exceeding those from suicides or auto accidents; and

WHEREAS, over half of opioid overdose deaths are related to medications obtained legally through a prescription; and

WHEREAS, excessive opioid prescribing, high-dose prescriptions, and chronic use increase the risk for opioid dependency, overdose, and death; and

WHEREAS, several studies fail to show the benefits of long-term opioid therapy and the first and only long-term study evaluating opioid versus nonopioid therapies for chronic pain found no evidence of opioid superiority for either function or pain intensity; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain recommends nonopioid analgesics, antidepressants, and antiseizure medications for the treatment of some forms of chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has outlined options and shared best practices for state Medicaid agencies and other payers to expand access to nonopioid pain treatments and other tactics to help address pain and the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, to safeguard the health and wellbeing of Louisiana residents, it is important for Louisiana health policymakers to support these guidelines and encourage health care providers to engage in prescribing patterns that support evidence-based safety standards.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study and report on options regarding reimbursements for nonopioid pain treatment and opioid alternatives in the Louisiana Medicaid program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than February 1, 2022, the department shall prepare and submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE