

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY REPRESENTATIVES EDMONDS, BACALA, DUSTIN MILLER, PRESSLY, AND  
WHEAT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to make adjustments in the state Medicaid budget for the purpose of allocating funding more equitably to providers throughout the disability services system.

WHEREAS, the legislature hereby reaffirms the following findings set forth originally in Act No. 381 of the 2019 Regular Session:

(1) Access to quality services for persons with developmental, intellectual, adult-onset, or physical disabilities furnished by private providers is essential for the health, safety, and well being of those persons.

(2) Reliable and sufficient Medicaid reimbursement rates for private providers are necessary to create and maintain a sustainable statewide system of services for eligible individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2021, through Committee of the Whole House amendments to the general appropriation bill for state Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the House of Representatives added over fifty-one million dollars to the bill to fund Medicaid rate increases for private providers of all of the following services: Long-term personal care services, Community Choices Waiver services, Adult Day Health Care Waiver services, New Opportunities Waiver services, Children's Choice Waiver services, Supports Waiver services, Residential Options Waiver services, services of intermediate care facilities for people with developmental disabilities, and support coordination services; and

WHEREAS, the intent and purpose of these Medicaid rate increases was to provide much-needed funding on an equitable basis for providers throughout the disability services system of this state; and

WHEREAS, subsequent amendments to the general appropriation bill had the unintended consequences of reducing the total amount of funding for disability services provider rate increases and limiting the purposes for which the smaller amount of appropriated funding could be expended; and

WHEREAS, providers of services for people with disabilities are essential components of the state Medicaid program and the services that they deliver for individuals, families, and communities are invaluable; and

WHEREAS, equitable funding for all members of the diverse group of providers that make up this state's disability services system is necessary in order to keep disparities in resources from impacting the availability, consistency, and quality of services delivered system-wide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to make adjustments in the state Medicaid budget as specified hereafter in this Resolution for the purpose of allocating funding more equitably to providers throughout the disability services system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to increase Medicaid rates to fund, predominantly, wages and other costs of private providers of Children's Choice Waiver, New Opportunities Waiver, Supports Waiver, and Residential Options Waiver services utilizing the funding identified on page 96, lines 12 through 25 of the enrolled version of House Bill No. 1 of this 2021 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if additional funding beyond what is appropriated to the Louisiana Department of Health for state Fiscal Year 2021-2022 is realized and made available to the department, then the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the department to utilize that funding to increase Medicaid rates to fund, predominantly, wages and other costs of private providers of home- and community-based services delivered through programs of the department's office of aging and adult services.

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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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE