

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 201

BY SENATORS CATHEY, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CLOUD, EDMONDS,
HENRY, JENKINS, MCMATH, MILLER, MIZELL, MORRIS,
PRESSLY, REESE, SELDERS AND TALBOT

A RESOLUTION

To memorialize Congress and urge the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reconsider any policies that may lead to reductions in Medicaid funding for hospitals in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, hospitals play a vital role in delivering essential healthcare services to urban and rural communities throughout Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, directives outlined in recent federal memoranda and guidance propose to reduce the longstanding maximum amount hospitals may be reimbursed by the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, hospitals in Louisiana serve as lifelines for many communities, especially our rural hospitals that provide essential healthcare services to residents in geographically isolated and medically underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, hospitals face unique challenges, including workforce shortages, financial instability, and limited access to specialized care; and

WHEREAS, reductions to Medicaid funding would exacerbate those challenges, potentially leading to service cutbacks, staff reductions, or even closures of hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the closure or reduced capacity of hospitals would disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including the elderly, children, and those with chronic illnesses, as well as place additional strain on remaining healthcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid funding is not only essential for sustaining healthcare services but also plays a critical role in supporting the economic viability of our communities since hospitals often serve as major employers and economic contributors; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is committed to ensuring access to quality healthcare for all residents, regardless of their geographic or economic circumstances; and

WHEREAS, collaboration between state and federal governments is crucial to address the healthcare disparities and challenges faced by communities while safeguarding access to essential services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize Congress and urge the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to avoid reductions in Medicaid funding that would adversely affect Louisiana's hospitals and the communities they serve.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize Congress and urge the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately approve the pending Louisiana State Directed Payment Preprints for both hospital and physician payment and to not reduce total payment amounts for future rating periods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana emphasizes the importance of sustaining the current levels of Medicaid funding to ensure continued access to comprehensive healthcare services throughout the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana calls upon Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to actively engage with state officials, healthcare providers, and community stakeholders to develop solutions that address the healthcare needs of Louisiana without undermining the financial stability of our hospitals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the United States, the vice president of the United States, the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the majority leader of the United States Senate, each member of Louisiana's congressional delegation, the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and the administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE