HLS 11RS-1847 **ORIGINAL**

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 164

BY REPRESENTATIVE KATZ

MEDICAID: Urges and requests DHH to study the health impacts and fiscal benefits to La. of implementing a Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver to expand services to people living with HIV and to report study results to certain legislative committees

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the health impacts and fiscal benefits to this state of implementing a Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver to expand services to pre-disabled people living with HIV and to report the results of such study to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing a domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic and a public health crisis related to that epidemic which demands a renewed commitment, increased public attention, and state leadership; and

WHEREAS, a total of eighteen thousand three hundred eight Louisiana residents were living with a diagnosis of HIV or AIDS as of December 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's HIV/AIDS epidemic affects both urban and rural parishes, as there were six thousand four hundred seventy-two individuals living with HIV/AIDS outside of the Baton Rouge and New Orleans metropolitan statistical areas as of December 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, one thousand two hundred nineteen new HIV cases and seven hundred ninety-four new AIDS cases were diagnosed in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health, estimated in 2009 that over forty percent of Louisiana residents who know that they are living with HIV/AIDS are not in care; and

WHEREAS, due to concurrently rising utilization rates, insufficient federal funding, and state fiscal constraints, Louisiana's AIDS Drug Assistance Program capped enrollment in June 2010 and subsequently has been unable to meet the treatment needs of hundreds of Louisiana residents living with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, without treatment, HIV/AIDS slowly debilitates a person's immune system until he or she succumbs to illness; and

WHEREAS, emergency and inpatient medical interventions for acute health crises associated with untreated HIV/AIDS cost tens of thousands of dollars per individual per event; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers absorb full the cost of such interventions for uninsured individuals; and

WHEREAS, early access to HIV treatment and care reduces viral load, promotes positive health outcomes, and prevents disability, improves individuals' quality and length of life, and enables maintained productivity; and

WHEREAS, the National HIV/AIDS Strategy of 2010 identifies promoting access to care for people living with HIV/AIDS as a pillar of the national strategy to end the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the National HIV/AIDS Strategy Implementation Plan directs the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to further the goal of increasing access to care by working with states to promote and support the development and expedient review of Medicaid 1115 waivers to allow states to expand their Medicaid programs to cover pre-disabled people living with HIV; and

WHEREAS, this state may qualify for federal matching funds at a rate of sixty-three and sixty-one hundredths percent for services provided under a Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver to Louisiana residents living with HIV/AIDS.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the health impacts and

fiscal benefits to this state of implementing a Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver to expand services to pre-disabled people living with HIV, and to report the results of such study to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall examine the fiscal and programmatic feasibility of reducing unmet health needs through expanding eligibility for Medicaid to HIV-positive individuals with incomes at or below one hundred thirty-three percent of the federal poverty level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include a comparison of the fiscal impact of using state general fund dollars to expand Medicaid eligibility to this population for preventative health services versus the fiscal impact of continuing to use state general fund dollars to pay for emergency and inpatient medical interventions for uninsured HIV-positive individuals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study may also consider any planning and coordination benefits the state may derive from expanding Medicaid eligibility to HIV-positive individuals in preparation for an overall expansion of Medicaid eligibility as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals and the chairman of the board of directors of the Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network.

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)]

Katz HCR No. 164

Urges and requests DHH to study the health impacts and fiscal benefits to this state of implementing a Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver to expand coverage of pre-disabled people living with HIV and to report study results to the following legislative committees prior to the convening of the 2012 R.S.:

(1) House Committee on Health and Welfare.
(2) Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.
(3) House Committee on Appropriations.
(4) Senate Committee on Finance.