

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY SENATOR BARROW

HEALTH CARE. Directs the Department of Health and Hospitals to evaluate and report on funding solutions for in-home support providers.

A RESOLUTION

To direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to evaluate and report on funding solutions for in-home support providers.

WHEREAS, community based in-home support providers are a fundamental component of the health care spectrum as more and more individuals seek community based care as opposed to institutionalization; and

WHEREAS, this provider group has been disproportionately jeopardized by a series of rate reductions and unfunded mandates over the past several years; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, in-home support providers have suffered a 23% rate reduction while other institutional providers have experienced marginal rate reductions or no reductions at all, making the current in-home provider rate less than the provider rate in 2008; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Affordable Care Act required in-home support providers to offer health insurance to 95% of agency employees without the provision of state or federal dollars to cover the mandate; and

WHEREAS, also in 2016, the U.S. Department of Labor overtime rule became effective requiring in-home support providers to begin paying overtime rates to their employees without the provision of state or federal dollars to cover the mandate; and

1           WHEREAS, it is estimated that for a mid-size agency, which a majority of in-home  
2           support providers are, the costs of implementing these unfunded mandates could be nearly  
3           half a million dollars; and

4           WHEREAS, because of the rate reductions and unfunded mandates, a recent survey  
5           by the Supported Living Network documented that nearly three quarters of the three hundred  
6           current in-home support providers are facing bankruptcy, closure or elimination within the  
7           next six months; and

8           WHEREAS, this puts employment of thirty thousand direct support workers at risk  
9           of unemployment and will leave more than twenty thousand individuals with disabilities and  
10          seniors without in-home care, placing them at risk of institutionalization; and

11          WHEREAS, other provider groups have been much more favored by the department  
12          and have not sustained the rate reductions borne by in-home support providers without any  
13          regard to this provider group's ability to sustain such rate reductions and unfunded mandates;  
14          and

15          WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Hospitals to  
16          ensure that their reimbursement rates are adequate to maintain an appropriate provider  
17          network to care for individuals with disabilities and seniors in the community.

18          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
19          does hereby direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to evaluate and report on funding  
20          solutions for in-home support providers.

21          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include data on the rate  
22          reductions of in-home support providers versus rate reductions to institutional nursing home  
23          providers, by year, since 2008, and should also include data on all of the unfunded mandates  
24          being thrust upon this provider group.

25          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include a detailed plan  
26          identifying realistic funding strategies and solutions that can be implemented for this  
27          provider group and a time line for implementation to ensure sustainability of the services  
28          they provide to the individuals who rely on them the most.

29          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit a report of its  
30          findings and recommendations to the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana no later than

1      October 1, 2016.

2                    BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
3      secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

---

                    The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
                    of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christine Arbo Peck.

---

	DIGEST	
SR 6 Original	2016 Regular Session	Barrow

Directs the Department of Health and Hospitals to evaluate and report on funding solutions for in-home support providers.