Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL JACKSON

AIDS: Expresses support for the urgent disbursement of additional federal funding for the Louisiana AIDS Drug Assistance Program

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To express support for the Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis C and the
3	Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network in requesting urgent disbursement of additional
4	federal funding for Louisiana AIDS Drug Assistance Programs.
5	WHEREAS, the United States faces a major public health crisis for low-income
6	persons living with HIV or AIDS due to the insufficient funding of more than a dozen state
7	AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and the subsequent implementation of cost
8	containment measures or closures within these programs; and
9	WHEREAS, access to antiretroviral medications provided through state ADAPs has
10	been demonstrated to slow HIV disease progression, enhance the quality of life of persons
11	living with HIV, delay the onset of AIDS, and extend life; and
12	WHEREAS, a low viral burden has also been associated with a reduced rate of HIV
13	transmission; and
14	WHEREAS, the Louisiana office of public health HIV/AIDS Program has already
15	implemented cost containment measures in excess of two million dollars and still faces a
16	significant budget deficit for the state's ADAP; and
17	WHEREAS, in the past twelve months, as a result of stagnant levels of federal
18	funding, rising unemployment, and aggressive HIV testing initiatives funded by the Centers
19	for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Louisiana ADAP has experienced a fifteen
20	percent increase in the overall number of unduplicated clients served; a seventeen percent
21	increase in average antiretroviral medication cost per client; a twenty-two percent increase

1	in utilization of services; and a thirty-two percent increase in overall program expenditures;
2	and
3	WHEREAS, these trends of increasing client utilization and program costs do not
4	show signs of reversing; and
5	WHEREAS, the level of federal funds available has not kept pace with the increase
6	in client utilization of state ADAPs, creating a need for additional funding on an emergency
7	basis; and
8	WHEREAS, Louisiana may be forced to cap new enrollment to the state's ADAP
9	without such funds; and
10	WHEREAS, such a limitation would create barriers to Louisianians accessing life-
11	prolonging medications and will potentially increase HIV-related morbidity and mortality
12	in this state; and
13	WHEREAS, according to the CDC's 2007 HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, Volume
14	19, Louisiana ranked fifth highest among all states in AIDS case rates and eleventh highest
15	among all states in the number of AIDS cases diagnosed in 2007; and
16	WHEREAS, as also identified in this CDC report, New Orleans ranked second
17	highest in AIDS case rates among the largest United States metropolitan areas and Baton
18	Rouge ranked third highest.
19	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20	support the Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis C and the Louisiana AIDS
21	Advocacy Network in requesting urgent disbursement of additional federal funding for the
22	Louisiana AIDS Drug Assistance Program.
23	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in taking this action, the Legislature of
24	Louisiana intends to mitigate the effects of cost containment measures in the Louisiana
25	AIDS Drug Assistance Program and prevent the further limitation or closure of this program.
26	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
27	Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis C and to the Louisiana AIDS Advocacy
28	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)]

Michael Jackson

HCR No. 133

Expresses support for the La. Commission on HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis C and the La. AIDS Advocacy Network in requesting urgent disbursement of additional federal funding for La. AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs).