

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY REPRESENTATIVES KATRINA JACKSON, BARROW, AND NORTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the office of public health in the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the feasibility of establishing a breast milk bank at a hospital in Northeast Louisiana with a level three neonatal intensive care unit.

WHEREAS, breast milk is the natural and normal way to provide optimum nutritional, immunological, and emotional nurturing for the growth and development of infants; and

WHEREAS, during the first year of life, breast milk is the best source of nutrition for infants; and

WHEREAS, when it is not possible for a biological mother to breast feed the use of donor breast milk has been encouraged as the milk of choice; and

WHEREAS, a breast milk bank can be a reasonable alternative to provide a consistent source of nutrition to infants; and

WHEREAS, a breast milk bank is a service established for collecting, screening, processing, storing, and distributing donated human milk; and

WHEREAS, breast milk banks fulfill an important role in the preservation of newborn life by collecting donated human milk, ensuring milk safety and quality through proper screening and processing, and making it available for infants in need; and

WHEREAS, no artificial baby milk or formula is the same as breast milk in terms of nutrients, enzymes, growth factors, hormones, immunological and anti-inflammatory properties or in infant growth and development outcomes; and

WHEREAS, breast milk banks serve the purpose of addressing this issue by collecting breast milk donations to be processed into nutritional formulations; and

WHEREAS, donating breast milk is a simple and safe process that can help save the lives of babies in neonatal intensive care units across the United States; and

WHEREAS, approximately three-quarters of milk bank orders across the nation come from hospitals; and

WHEREAS, rising demand for human breast milk in neonatal intensive care units has prompted the need for milk banks; and

WHEREAS, breast milk is important for all infants and it is even more important for premature babies; and

WHEREAS, one of the biggest problems premature infants face is receiving enough calories and protein to develop and survive, a problem that can be greatly addressed through breast milk donation; and

WHEREAS, breast milk banks can save the lives of premature babies whose mothers cannot produce milk themselves by providing human milk which contains protective antibodies that strengthen these infants' immune systems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby urges and requests the office of public health in the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the feasibility of establishing a breast milk bank at a hospital in Northeast Louisiana with a level three neonatal intensive care unit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include a determination of the availability of federal and state funds, private grants, or donations to aid in opening a breast milk bank at a hospital in Northeast Louisiana with a level three neonatal intensive care unit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall also include a determination of any cost savings realized in the state Medicaid program by the creation of a breast milk bank.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of public health in the Department of Health and Hospitals shall make a written report of its findings to the Legislature of Louisiana on or before February 1, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE