

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 96

BY REPRESENTATIVE ARMES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ensure that Tricare adequately covers behavioral therapies for military dependents.

WHEREAS, Tricare is the health program of the United States Department of Defense that finances health services delivered by civilian healthcare providers to nearly nine million five hundred thousand United States military personnel, military retirees, and dependents of military families; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a congressional mandate enacted in 2016, the military consolidated its three Tricare regions into two on January 1 of this year, marking the most extensive reform to Tricare since the program transitioned from a fee-for-service model to a managed care model in the mid-1990s; and

WHEREAS, though Tricare has largely resolved problems with computer networks, communications systems, and customer service that emerged during its recent consolidation, military families continue to report facing significant obstacles in access to behavioral therapies for children; and

WHEREAS, according to behavioral therapy providers, these obstacles result from inconsistent reimbursement, undue delays in claims processing, problems with provider credentialing, misclassification of services and levels of coverage, and ongoing challenges in correcting errors by the managed care companies which now serve Tricare beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, behavioral therapies can be immensely beneficial to children with autism and other behavioral or developmental conditions; and

WHEREAS, parents of special-needs children who have benefitted from behavioral therapies strongly contend that these specialized health services are not just beneficial, but

in fact life-changing, in that they give their children a far better quality of life than would be possible without the services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ensure that Tricare adequately covers behavioral therapies for military dependents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE