

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 107

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of funding a remote monitoring program for technology-dependent children who are tracheostomy patients.

WHEREAS, over the last ten years, there has been a three hundred to five hundred percent increase in the use of tracheostomy for home care in children, as estimated by experts at Children's Hospital of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, pediatric tracheostomy patients at home face an estimated one percent per year risk of suffering a sudden death from a tracheostomy complication; and

WHEREAS, there is a twenty percent overall mortality rate related to the global health condition of patients affected by tracheostomy; and

WHEREAS, although home care for tracheostomy can be supported by home health nursing, trained pediatric tracheostomy care nurses are exceptionally difficult to find regardless of insurance status; and

WHEREAS, a remote home monitoring program that allows for continuous monitoring of patients at home could serve as a means to maintain the health and safety of technology-dependent children at home without the need of a home health nurse; and

WHEREAS, the use of such technology could significantly reduce the number of hospitalizations of patients with tracheostomies; and

WHEREAS, the average cost of hospitalization of such patients can cost thousands of dollars per day; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of remote monitoring is two hundred eighty-five dollars per day; and

WHEREAS, such technology is not only significantly cheaper than hospitalization but also allows patients to remain at home in the care of loved ones outside of a hospital setting, while also freeing up needed hospital beds for other patients.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of funding a remote monitoring program for technology-dependent children for tracheostomy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall develop findings and recommendations concerning this topic and shall submit these findings and recommendations in the form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2024 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES