

02022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 234

BY REPRESENTATIVES LANDRY AND HILFERTY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the governor of this state to take action to address and mitigate the effects of the baby formula shortage in this state.

WHEREAS, as of the date of filing this Resolution, there is a nationwide shortage of baby formula; and

WHEREAS, national media outlets have reported that this baby formula shortage resulted from suspected contamination that led to a recall and the ultimate shutdown of a Michigan manufacturing plant; and

WHEREAS, an article published in the Washington Post stated that the "baby formula shortage has put the medical community on alert, from pediatricians screening infants for anemia to specialists struggling to replace the carefully calibrated recipes that keep high-risk youngsters alive"; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Publications noted in a May 19, 2022, statement that "for infants, formula is often the only source of nutrition"; and

WHEREAS, according to the AAP, formula is designed to be one of the primary sources of nutrition for a child's first year of life; and

WHEREAS, these shortages have been especially acute for children with allergies, digestive issues, or metabolic disorders and for low-income families who rely on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; and

WHEREAS, while formulas may be easily interchangeable for some babies, this crisis can be catastrophic for complex-care babies who have trouble swallowing or malformed bowels and receive tube feeding at home; and

WHEREAS, according to reports, the shortage is hitting economically disadvantaged communities and communities of color hard in part because they rely heavily on formula; and

WHEREAS, the AAP has urged the Biden Administration to do everything in its power to quickly increase the supply of safe infant formula in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the severity of this crisis has greatly impacted the nation as well as this state as Louisianians have suffered substantially as a result of this formula shortage; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans Metro News, also known as Nola.com, stated that, "Louisiana has suffered slightly higher shortages than the U.S. average"; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans and the surrounding areas have been among the cities hit hardest by the formula shortage, ranking third for out-of-stock percentages in mid-April, behind only San Antonio and Houston; and

WHEREAS, while the nation's response to the formula shortage is steadily developing, it is the duty of Louisianians to take action in response to the disastrous effects that residents face locally; and

WHEREAS, other states have implemented certain policies to address the formula shortage that include but are not limited to the following:

(1) Expanding eligibility for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children formula options.

(2) Creating a statewide database that provides retailer availability information.

(3) Taking preventative measures against price gouging.

WHEREAS, Louisianians look to legislators, public officials, and state agencies to assist in this response.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the governor of this state to take action to address and mitigate the effects of the baby formula shortage in this state.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES