

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 292

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMEDEE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to conduct a study on the relationship between sudden unexpected deaths of infants and children, ages two and under, and the administration of vaccinations.

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of infants and children in Louisiana is paramount to this state and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the sudden unexpected death of an infant is a tragic event that can leave families and communities with many unanswered questions; and

WHEREAS, the United States has the highest infant mortality rate amongst developed nations and research shows that Louisiana has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the nation with an estimated two thousand infant deaths over the past decade, many of which were attributed to preterm births and low birth weights; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive understanding of the causes of unexpected infant deaths is essential for developing effective strategies to prevent such tragedies; and

WHEREAS, while vaccinations have been integrated into medical practice in an effort to prevent diseases, there is still a need to continuously monitor and study the potential impact of such preventative treatment on the health of infants and children; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 288 of the 2024 Regular Session sought to require coroners to include the immunization records of infants who have died in their investigations, but failed to pass, highlighting the importance of further research regarding this topic; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United States Food and Drug Administration are committed to ensuring that vaccinations provided to the public are safe and effective; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of this state and its legislature to protect the health and well-being of its youngest citizens and provide the necessary resources to address the issue of sudden unexpected deaths of infants and children, ages two and under.

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 conduct a study to examine the relationship between unexpected deaths of infants and children, ages two and under, and the administration of vaccinations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but not be limited to an analysis of the state's immunization records in the context of sudden unexpected deaths of infants and children, ages two and under, and be submitted in the form of a written report to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana by February 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the written report shall contain anonymous data evaluating immunization records in the LINKS Immunization Information System, of infants and children, two years of age or younger, who died suddenly and without explanation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the data shall include immunization records from the 2013 calendar year to present.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the written report shall include the infant or child's age at the time of death, full immunization history, and the date of the infant or child's last immunization and its proximity to the infant or child's time of death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall collaborate with relevant state and federal agencies and medical and public healthcare experts to ensure that its study is conducted with the highest level of scientific rigor and integrity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this state shall allocate the necessary resources and funding to support the study required in this Resolution and that the findings be used to inform future policies and practices aimed at reducing the incidence of unexpected deaths of infants and children, ages two and under, in this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study called for in this Resolution shall not be conducted unless the Legislature of Louisiana appropriates monies sufficient to cover the cost of the study.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES