

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY SENATOR LAMBERT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to develop and implement a plan for managed care organizations to provide reimbursement for psychological services provided by psychology doctoral interns and post-doctoral fellows.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has a mental health crisis, with over three million people in the state of Louisiana living in communities that lack a sufficient number of mental and behavioral health providers; and

WHEREAS, psychologists are an integral part of the mental and behavioral health provider community in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the psychology profession currently faces difficulties in funding training for psychology doctoral interns and post-doctoral fellows and sustaining the few existing slots left in the state; and

WHEREAS, a psychology doctoral intern is defined as an unlicensed student who is currently enrolled in a formal doctoral training program and presently completing a psychology doctoral internship program which is approved by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers or the American Psychological Association; and

WHEREAS, a post-doctoral fellow is defined as an unlicensed supervisee who has completed a doctorate in psychology, and who is presently completing a plan of supervision approved by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists; and

WHEREAS, psychology doctoral interns and post-doctoral fellows are authorized to provide and charge for all services that a licensed psychologist is authorized to provide but do not receive any Medicaid reimbursements for the services; and

WHEREAS, many states, including Texas, Arkansas, Alabama, and others provide Medicaid reimbursement for supervised trainees; and

WHEREAS, allowing Medicaid reimbursement for these services would increase access to underserved populations and build a pipeline of psychologists trained to provide integrated services to those populations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Louisiana Department of Health to coordinate with the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to implement a plan for providing Medicaid reimbursement for services provided by psychology doctoral interns and post-doctoral fellows.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES