

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY SENATOR CARTER AND REPRESENTATIVES BOYD, WILFORD CARTER, COX, DEVILLIER, EMERSON, FISHER, GAINES, GLOVER, GREEN, HUGHES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, TRAVIS JOHNSON, KNOX, LAFLEUR, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, DUSTIN MILLER, MOORE, NEWELL, PHELPS, PIERRE, SCHLEGEL, SELDERS, STAGNI AND WILLARD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana State Nurses Association to convene a Nursing Maternal Mortality and Preterm Births Task Force.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has one of the highest incidences of maternal mortality and preterm births in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has limited obstetric health care in rural areas, which lack maternity care resources, where there may be no hospitals or birth centers offering obstetric care, and no obstetric providers; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's maternal mortality rate of over fifty-eight deaths per one hundred thousand births is the highest in the United States with sixty-eight percent of maternal deaths deemed preventable; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, there were seven thousand three hundred eighty-six preterm births in Louisiana, representing almost thirteen percent of live births or one in eight babies born in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, over thirty percent of Louisiana is considered a maternity desert with little to no access to maternal care, affecting over two million women in Louisiana of childbearing age and almost one hundred fifty thousand Louisiana babies; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's maternal mortality rates are four times higher for black women, with fifty-nine percent of black maternal deaths deemed preventable while nine percent of white maternal deaths were deemed preventable; and

WHEREAS, the role of the registered nurse includes fetal monitoring, helping to manage pregnancy complications, assisting with cesarean deliveries, and caring for the neonate and all preterm infants; and

WHEREAS, registered nurses are aware of the potential implications that disease,

physical and psychosocial trauma, and medical treatment can have on women of childbearing age and on the health of a fetus or newborn; and

WHEREAS, the nursing profession continues to secure the highest assessment of ethics and honesty, with the American public rating nurses the highest among a host of professionals, including medical doctors, pharmacists, and high school teachers; and

WHEREAS, nursing is the nation's largest healthcare profession, with over four million registered nurses nationwide; and

WHEREAS, nurse midwives are healthcare professionals who provide an array of healthcare services for women including gynecological examinations, contraceptive counseling, prescriptions, and labor and delivery care; and

WHEREAS, nurse midwives provide expert care during labor, delivery, and even after birth, a specialty that makes them unique; and

WHEREAS, nurse midwives often function as both a quality and economical option for birthing care; and

WHEREAS, according to the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the benefits of receiving midwifery care include: decreased risk of needing a cesarean procedure, reduced rates of labor induction and augmentation, reduced use of regional anesthesia, decreased infant mortality rates, decreased risk of preterm birth, lower costs for both clients and insurers, increased chances of having a positive start to breastfeeding, and increased satisfaction with the quality of care; and

WHEREAS, the legislature finds that maternal death rates and preterm birth rates are an important public health issue in Louisiana and maternal death rates and preterm birth rates are a growing concern at the national level.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Nurses Association to create the Nursing Maternal Mortality and Preterm Birth Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be charged with providing the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health with recommendations regarding nursing involvement in improving maternal outcomes and the development and implementation of maternal mortality and preterm birth initiatives throughout the state of

Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) One Senate member appointed by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(2) One House member appointed by the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

(3) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing or his designee.

(4) The president of the Louisiana State Nurses Association or his designee.

(5) The president of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners or his designee.

(6) The chairman of the Louisiana Organization for Nursing Leadership or his designee.

(7) The president of the Louisiana Hospital Association or his designee.

(8) The chairman of the Nursing Supply and Demand Council or his designee.

(9) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Licensed Practical Nurse Examiners or his designee.

(10) The medical director of the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative and Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review or his designee.

(11) The president of the Louisiana affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives or his designee.

(12) The president of the Louisiana section of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nurses or his designee.

(13) The dean of the School of Nursing of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans or his designee.

(14) The dean of the School of Public Health of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans or his designee.

(15) The dean of the Southern University School of Nursing or his designee.

(16) An LCMC Health neonatology nurse practitioner appointed by the neonatology medical director.

(17) The LCMC Health neonatology medical director or his designee.

(18) An Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans neonatology nurse practitioner appointed by the neonatology medical director.

(19) The Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans neonatology medical director or his designee.

(20) The dean of the College of Nursing and Health of Loyola University or his designee.

(21) The president of the Louisiana State Medical Society or his designee.

(22) The president of DePaul Community Health Centers of New Orleans or his designee.

(23) The chief nursing officer of Woman's Hospital or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting no later than September 1, 2023. At the first meeting, the members of the task force shall elect a chairman and vice chairman and other officers as they deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall not be compensated for their services on the task force but may seek travel reimbursement from their respective agencies under their respective guidelines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meetings of the task force shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et. seq., and records of the task force shall be subject to the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et. seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit recommendations to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare that include all of the following:

(1) Identifying how to increase the number of practicing certified nurse midwives in Louisiana.

(2) Identifying how registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses can contribute to positive maternal outcomes.

(3) Addressing the integration of midwifery services into current healthcare practices by identifying barriers and developing guidelines to remove obstacles to care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall be provided to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives no later than

forty-five days prior to the convening of the 2024 Regular Session, and the task force shall terminate after such submissions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, the Louisiana Organization for Nursing Leadership, the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Nursing Supply and Demand Council, the Louisiana State Board of Licensed Practical Nurse Examiners, the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative and Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review, the Louisiana affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives, the Louisiana section of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nurses, the School of Nursing of the Louisiana State University Health and Sciences Center at New Orleans, the School of Public Health of the Louisiana State University Health and Sciences Center at New Orleans, the Southern University School of Nursing, LCMC Health, Woman's Hospital, Ochsner Medical Center, the College of Nursing and Health of Loyola University, the DePaul Community Health Centers of New Orleans, and the Louisiana State Medical Society.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES