

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 161

BY SENATOR MCPHERSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to repeal the administrative rule which requires a referral from the primary care provider in order for services provided by a school based health center to a child under the age of ten to be reimbursed by the Medicaid program.

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals requires that in order for a school based health center to be reimbursed for services provided to a child who is under ten years of age that the child be referred to the school based health center by their primary care provider; and

WHEREAS, this administrative rule is outdated and places an undue burden on the school based health centers operated in this state since many centers still provide services to children under the age of ten and do so without being able to obtain reimbursement from the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals has included a significant budget cut of state general fund support to school based health centers in the current year appropriation bill with the expectation that this cut in funding can be offset by better billing practices of the school based health centers; and

WHEREAS, school based health centers are impeded from maximizing reimbursement through the Medicaid program because of the existence of administrative rules like the one that requires a referral for services to children under the age of ten; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals recently suspended a similar administrative requirement for services provided by Federally Qualified Health Centers, and consistent action on the current rule for school based health centers would be beneficial to the further provision of health care services being provided at school based health centers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to repeal the administrative rule which requires a referral from the primary care provider in order for services provided by a school based health center to a child under the age of ten to be reimbursed by the Medicaid program.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE