

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 175

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the most effective means by which to ensure open access to HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C medications by persons enrolled in the Medicaid managed care program known as "Bayou Health".

WHEREAS, the provisions of Subpart 3 of Part I of Title 50 of the Louisiana Administrative Code, LAC 50:I.3101 et seq., authorize the Department of Health and Hospitals, hereafter referred to as the "department", to implement a system of Medicaid managed care known officially as "coordinated care networks"; and

WHEREAS, this Medicaid managed care program is known commonly as "Bayou Health"; and

WHEREAS, the stated purposes of Bayou Health are to achieve cost savings and promote better health outcomes by providing Medicaid funding to private insurance companies to manage health care delivery for a majority of the Medicaid enrollees of this state; and

WHEREAS, unlike in the segment of the Medicaid program that the department still manages directly, the pharmacy subprogram of which is regulated by R.S. 46:153.3, the Bayou Health plans are not required to utilize pharmaceutical and therapeutics committees to develop prescription drug formularies through an open process which allows for public input; and

WHEREAS, the lack of transparency in the development of the Bayou Health plans' drug formularies is of particular concern to Medicaid enrollees who live with HIV/AIDS or hepatitis C, or are coinfecting with these diseases; and

WHEREAS, due to the pronounced fiscal and public health benefits of effective disease management and preventive care for medically needy persons living with HIV/AIDS

or hepatitis C, or who are coinfectd, it is in the best interest of this state to remove unnecessary impediments to such care; and

WHEREAS, open access to necessary prescription medications is a critical component of disease management and preventive care for all persons living with HIV/AIDS or hepatitis C, or who are coinfectd.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the most effective means by which to ensure open access to HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C medications by enrollees in the Medicaid managed care program known as "Bayou Health".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide the findings of this study in the form of a report to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before December 31, 2013.

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