

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY REPRESENTATIVE TALBOT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the desirability and feasibility of adopting a state policy to provide for the review of prescription drug prices and rebates in the medical assistance program, known commonly as Medicaid.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services estimated that prescription drugs accounted for over fourteen percent of the overall cost of personal healthcare services Americans received in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the prices for certain prescription drugs that have been on the market for years have seen recent increases that have prompted congressional inquiry; and

WHEREAS, drug prices in the aggregate in the United States are among the highest in the world; and

WHEREAS, nine in ten Americans use prescription drugs, and three in four Americans say drug prices are unreasonable; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in five Americans do not fill a prescription each year because they cannot afford it; and

WHEREAS, rising prescription drug prices have affected both Louisiana residents who purchase prescription drugs and public healthcare programs that pay for prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, among the Louisiana residents who are most reliant on prescription drugs are senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, many residents may be reluctantly adopting the unhealthy and potentially dangerous practice of reducing their physician-prescribed prescription drug dosages; and

WHEREAS, rising prices for prescription drugs combined with an increase in patient cost-sharing, including copays, coinsurance, and deductibles, decreases the likelihood of adherence, resulting in worse health outcomes for patients and wasteful spending; and

WHEREAS, providing for affordable access to medically necessary prescription drugs will lower healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, the state of New York recently adopted a policy authorizing, when total Medicaid drug expenditures are projected to exceed the state's annual growth limitation, the referral of prescription drugs to a drug utilization review board for a recommendation as to whether a target supplemental Medicaid rebate should be paid to the state by the manufacturer of the drug and the target amount of the rebate; and

WHEREAS, the pricing of prescription drugs impacts state Medicaid budgets, Medicare spending, insurance premiums and prescription drug tiers, and, most importantly, patient access to these medications and medication adherence.

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 study the desirability and feasibility of adopting a state policy to provide for the review of prescription drug prices and rebates in the medical assistance program, known commonly as Medicaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health, in conducting the study requested by this Resolution, shall specifically determine the desirability and feasibility of implementing a policy similar to the recently enacted policies of the states of New York, Texas, and Ohio to encourage drug manufacturers to provide supplemental Medicaid rebates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation if necessary, to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session.

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES