

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY SENATOR MOUNT AND REPRESENTATIVE KATZ

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Nurse-Family Partnership Advisory Council and to urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals in conjunction with the Nurse-Family Partnership Advisory Council to study the expansion of the evidence-based Nurse-Family Partnership program and to report to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare prior to November 1, 2008.

WHEREAS, the United Health Foundation ranks Louisiana forty-ninth in infant mortality with a rate of 9.9 deaths per one thousand live births; and

WHEREAS, the United Health Foundation ranks Louisiana forty-ninth in immunization coverage with only 72.3 percent of children ages nineteen to thirty-five months immunized; and

WHEREAS, the United Health Foundation ranks Louisiana forty-ninth in overall health; and

WHEREAS, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2007 Kids Count Databook ranks Louisiana forty-ninth in overall child well-being, continuing a series of twelve consecutive years for the state being forty-ninth or fiftieth in the nation; and

WHEREAS, studies have demonstrated that prenatal and early childhood care and support are essential to the development of young children; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based home visiting program that improves the health, well-being, and self-sufficiency of low-income, first time parents and their children with intensive bi-weekly home visits, prenatally through the child's second birthday; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that the Nurse-Family Partnership improves pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in preventative health practices, including

obtaining thorough prenatal care, improving their diet, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that the Nurse-Family Partnership improves child health and development by helping parents provide competent care for their babies; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that the Nurse-Family Partnership improves families' economic self-sufficiency by helping parents develop a vision for their future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse-Family Partnership has consistent evidence, based on more than twenty-five years of randomized controlled trials replicated with varied populations; and

WHEREAS, among other outcomes, these studies have observed a forty-eight percent reduction in child abuse and neglect, fifty percent reduction in language delays at age twenty-one months, sixty-seven percent reduction in behavioral and intellectual problems at age six, twenty-six percent improvement in math and reading achievement test scores for first through third grades, fifty-nine percent reduction in arrests at age fifteen, sixty-nine percent fewer maternal arrests, and a fifty-seven percent reduction in emergency room visits for accidents and poisonings; and

WHEREAS, a study by Tulane University concluded that the Nurse-Family Partnership in Louisiana demonstrated a fifty-two percent reduction in premature births, fifty-one percent reduction in alcohol use or intoxication by the mother, fifty percent reduction in emergency room visits for any reason by the time the child was fifteen months old, forty-three percent reduction in prenatal depression and thirty-three percent reduction in subsequent pregnancies by fourteen months postpartum; and

WHEREAS, an independent study conducted by the Rand Corporation has demonstrated that the cost of the program is recovered by the time the child has reached the age of four and a savings of four dollars is realized for every dollar spent by the time the child reaches the age of fifteen; and

WHEREAS, an independent study by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy examined the evidence from research dating back to 1970 and concluded that the Nurse-Family Partnership provided the largest cost benefit of all the early intervention, child

welfare, and home visiting programs studied and additionally concluded that the Nurse-Family Partnership saved seventeen thousand dollars per family in welfare, criminal justice and medical costs; and

WHEREAS, the office of public health of the Department of Health and Hospitals first implemented a pilot program of the Nurse-Family Partnership in 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Nurse-Family Partnership program currently operates in forty-one of the sixty-four parishes but has the capacity to serve only a small fraction of eligible first-time mothers; and

WHEREAS, more and more states, including Tennessee and Texas, have passed legislation to greatly increase the capacity of their Nurse-Family Partnership programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Nurse-Family Partnership Advisory Council comprised of the following members:

(1) One member representing and appointed by the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

(2) One member representing and appointed by the Baptist Community Ministries.

(3) One member representing and appointed by BrightStart.

(4) One member representing and appointed by the Council for a Better Louisiana.

(5) One member representing and appointed by the Institute of Mental Hygiene.

(6) One member representing and appointed by the Juvenile and Family Court Judges Association.

(7) One member representing and appointed by the Louisiana Association of Non-Profit Organizations.

(8) One member representing and appointed by the Louisiana Maternal and Child Health Coalition.

(9) One member representing and appointed by the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families.

(10) One member representing and appointed by the Louisiana Public Health Institute.

(11) One member representing and appointed by the Louisiana State University System.

(12) One member representing and appointed by the Tulane University Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.

(13) One member representing and appointed by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana.

(14) The assistant secretary of the office of public health, Department of Health and Hospitals, or his designee.

(15) The director of the bureau of health services financing, Department of Health and Hospitals, or his designee.

(16) The assistant secretary of the office of family support, Department of Social Services, or his designee.

(17) The commissioner of administration or his designee.

(18) Any other members deemed necessary and appointed by the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals shall convene the first meeting of the Nurse-Family Partnership Advisory Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals in conjunction with the Nurse-Family Partnership Advisory Council to explore the expansion of the Nurse-Family Partnership program and to report to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare prior to November 1, 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report should include but not be limited to the following:

(1) An examination of how other states are implementing the Nurse-Family Partnership program.

(2) The financial resources needed for expansion.

(3) The potential funding sources available for expansion.

(4) The workforce development strategies to address the number of nurses needed to deliver the program.

(5) The recommendations for community outreach that may lead to innovative partnerships and leveraged resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nurse-Family Partnership Advisory Council shall terminate November 1, 2008.

SCR NO. 70

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Department of Health and Hospitals and to each association or organization which is charged with appointing members to the council.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES