

Regular Session, 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY SENATOR MOUNT

HEALTH SERVICES. Creates the Nurse-Family Partnership Advisory Council and requests the Department of Health and Hospitals in conjunction with the Nurse-Family Partnership to study the expansion of the evidence-based Nurse-Family Partnership.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 WHEREAS, research has shown that the Nurse-Family Partnership improves
6 pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in preventative health practices, including
7 obtaining thorough prenatal care, improving their diet, and reducing their use of cigarettes,
8 alcohol and illegal substances; and

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, an independent study by the Washington State Institute for Public

1 Policy examined the evidence from research dating back to 1970 and concluded that the
2 Nurse-Family Partnership provided the largest cost benefit of all the early intervention, child
3 welfare, and home visiting programs studied and additionally concluded that the Nurse-
4 Family Partnership saved seventeen thousand dollars per family in welfare, criminal justice
5 and medical costs; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (3) One member representing and appointed by BrightStart.

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

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

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

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

25 (8) One member representing and appointed by the Louisiana Maternal and Child
26 Health Organization.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (17) The commissioner of administration or his designee.

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

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

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

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

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

25 (2) The financial resources needed for expansion.

26 (3) The potential funding sources available for expansion.

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

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

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

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Greg Waddell.

DIGEST

Mount

SCR No.

Creates the Nurse-Family Partnership Advisory Council and urges DHH 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.