

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 179

BY SENATOR CATHEY

MEDICAID. Urges and requests the federal government to avoid reductions in Medicaid funding that would adversely affect Louisiana's rural hospitals and the communities they serve.

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the federal government of the United States, including Congress and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to reconsider any policies that may lead to reductions in Medicaid funding for the forty-nine rural hospitals in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, rural hospitals play a vital role in delivering essential healthcare services to rural communities throughout Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum titled "Eliminating Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Medicaid"; and

WHEREAS, while addressing waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicaid system is a commendable goal supported by Louisiana, the directives outlined in the memorandum reduce the longstanding maximum amount the rural hospitals may be reimbursed by the Medicaid program and are projected to result in an estimated \$120 million or 21% annual reduction in funding to Louisiana's rural hospitals; and

WHEREAS, rural hospitals in Louisiana serve as lifelines for many communities, providing essential healthcare services to residents in geographically isolated and medically underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, rural hospitals face unique challenges, including workforce shortages,

1 financial instability, and limited access to specialized care; and

2 WHEREAS, reductions to Medicaid funding would exacerbate those challenges,
3 potentially leading to service cutbacks, staff reductions, or even closures of rural hospitals;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the closure or reduced capacity of rural hospitals would
6 disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including the elderly, children, and those
7 with chronic illnesses, as well as place additional strain on remaining healthcare facilities;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Medicaid funding is not only essential for sustaining healthcare services
10 but also plays a critical role in supporting the economic viability of rural communities since
11 hospitals often serve as major employers and economic contributors; and

12 WHEREAS, Louisiana is committed to ensuring access to quality healthcare for all
13 residents, irrespective of their geographic or economic circumstances; and

14 WHEREAS, collaboration between state and federal governments is crucial to
15 address the healthcare disparities and challenges faced by rural communities while
16 safeguarding their access to essential services.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18 does hereby urges and requests the federal government to avoid reductions in Medicaid
19 funding that would adversely affect Louisiana's rural hospitals and the communities they
20 serve.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
22 emphasizes the importance of sustaining the current levels of Medicaid funding to ensure
23 continued access to comprehensive healthcare services throughout the state's rural areas.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the
26 United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
27 each member of Louisiana's congressional delegation, and the Administrator of the Centers
28 for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana calls
30 upon the federal government to actively engage with state officials, healthcare providers, and

1 community stakeholders to develop solutions that address the healthcare needs of rural
2 populations without undermining the financial stability of rural hospitals.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

	DIGEST	
SR 179 Original	2025 Regular Session	Cathey

Requests the federal government to avoid reductions in Medicaid funding that would adversely affect Louisiana's rural hospitals and the communities they serve.