

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 194

BY SENATOR BARROW

MEDICAID. Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to review and provide certain information to the Senate regarding Medicaid managed care contracts.

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to review the effectiveness of the current Medicaid managed care program and improve upon the department's oversight of the managed care organization contracts and to submit a report to the Senate outlining efforts to improve oversight and health outcomes.

WHEREAS, the provision of evidence-based health care services is the best method for improving the health of a population; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid managed care was implemented in Louisiana in 2012 to improve health outcomes of our Medicaid recipients, provide meaningful management of healthcare of the recipients, improve Medicaid provider participation to increase access, and provide greater budget stability; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program currently insures approximately 1.6 million individuals, or nearly thirty-five percent of our state's total population, and over 650,000 of those enrolled are children; and

WHEREAS, the managed care organizations are tasked with monitoring and managing the provision of health care services to the Medicaid managed care enrollees to maintain or improve their health status; and

WHEREAS, although Louisiana is spending billions of dollars each year on

1 Medicaid, after thirteen years of managed care, health outcomes have not improved, there
2 is no meaningful management of recipient healthcare, there are fewer Medicaid providers
3 and those who are participating are consistently paid at inadequate rates, and the Medicaid
4 budget has never stabilized; and

5 WHEREAS, while some of the increased costs since the inception of Medicaid
6 managed care can be attributed to Louisiana expanding Medicaid in 2016 to provide
7 coverage to low-income adults who were previously ineligible, the cost of the Medicaid
8 program continues to increase significantly each year; and

9 WHEREAS, the recommended Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget for the Medicaid
10 program is nearly \$19 billion, a significant increase over the \$11.6 billion in actual
11 expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017-2018; and

12 WHEREAS, Louisiana consistently ranks 49th or 50th in the nation for healthcare
13 outcomes, and recently the U.S. News & World Report's ranking of the "Best States for
14 2025" has Louisiana in last place as number 50; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the legislative auditor's report on oversight of managed
16 quality care, from January 2018 through December 2022, the Louisiana Department of
17 Health paid the managed care organizations \$720 million to manage the care of nearly
18 50,000 beneficiaries who did not receive a single service in the five-year time frame; and

19 WHEREAS, numerous audits and reports over the past twelve years have identified
20 instances where funds are being spent on the managed care organizations and their
21 subsidiaries and not going to the Louisiana healthcare providers actually treating the
22 recipients; and

23 WHEREAS, often the medical loss ratio includes payments made to the managed
24 care organizations' subsidiaries, which are owned by the managed care organizations, and
25 is not reflective of actual payments made to Louisiana healthcare providers; and

26 WHEREAS, more robust oversight could identify the amount that managed care
27 organizations claim as being spent directly on patient care in Louisiana; and

28 WHEREAS, requiring providers to contract with six separate managed care
29 organizations creates unnecessary administrative burdens, as each managed care
30 organization has different requirements for provider enrollment, credentialing, and prior

1 authorization; and

2 WHEREAS, meaningful oversight on actual costs spent on patient care and how
3 much of Medicaid funding is actually paid to the many Louisiana healthcare providers who
4 treat the recipients would allow the state to ensure Medicaid funds are being spent in the
5 most effective manner; and

6 WHEREAS, for the managed care model to be successful, the Louisiana Department
7 of Health must streamline the Medicaid managed care system, encourage the managed care
8 contractors to utilize add-on services to best respond to the health needs of the enrollees,
9 implement more robust contract monitoring with an emphasis on ensuring that best practices
10 in health care service provision and disease and health management are being utilized by the
11 managed care contractors, and exercise greater oversight authority of the Medicaid managed
12 care organizations.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
14 does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to review the efficiency
15 and effectiveness of the current Medicaid managed care program by utilizing outcome data
16 to evaluate the role of the contractors in the program in truly managing the care provided to
17 and improving the overall health status of the managed care population and to improve upon
18 the department's oversight of the managed care organization contracts.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does
20 hereby request the Louisiana Department of Health to submit a report to the Senate outlining
21 current efforts to improve healthcare outcomes and how the department intends to address
22 the department's oversight of the managed care organizations, the number of managed care
23 organizations, and improve the effectiveness of health quality measures incentives used by
24 the department and managed care organizations.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall be submitted no later than
26 January 1, 2026.

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

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 194 Original	2025 Regular Session	Barrow

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