

Regular Session, 2004

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATOR ELLINGTON AND REPRESENTATIVES DURAND, E. GUILLORY  
AND KATZ

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To establish the Commission on Men's Health and Wellness to study and make recommendations relative to improving the health of men living in Louisiana and to require the commission to report such recommendations.

WHEREAS, there is a silent health crisis affecting the health and well-being of Louisiana's men; and

WHEREAS, this health crisis is of particular concern to men, but is also the concern of women, expressly because they have fathers, sons, husbands, and brothers; and

WHEREAS, the life expectancy gap between men and women in the United States has steadily increased from one year in 1920 to a gap of six years in 2000; and

WHEREAS, that life expectancy gap expands to seven and eight tenths years when comparing only Louisiana men and Louisiana women; and

WHEREAS, studies show that women are one hundred percent more likely than men to have regular physician check-ups and obtain preventive screening tests for serious diseases; and

WHEREAS, the appropriate use of diagnostic tests such as prostate specific antigen (PSA) exams, and blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction with clinical exams and self-testing, can result in the early detection of many problems and in increased survival rates; and

WHEREAS, an estimated one hundred eighty thousand men will be newly diagnosed with prostate cancer this year alone, of which almost twenty-nine thousand will die; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of prostate cancer and the resulting mortality rate in African American men is twice that in white men; and

WHEREAS, educating men, their families, and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems can result in reducing rates of mortality for male-specific diseases, as well as improving the health of Louisiana's men and its overall economic well-being.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana establishes the Commission on Men's Health and Wellness to investigate and make recommendations regarding actions necessary to promote men's health in this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Men's Health and Wellness shall be comprised of thirteen members to be chosen as follows:

- (1) Four appointees of the governor, with the advice of the Senate.
- (2) Four appointees of the president of the Senate.
- (3) Four appointees of the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) The chief health officer of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

Each appointee shall be a medical or academic expert or community leader in the area of men's health or family health or an active member of an organization active in men's health or family health issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all appointive members of the commission shall serve terms of three years, except for initial terms beginning on the effective date of this Resolution, and determined by lot at the first meeting of the commission as follows:

- (1) Six to serve until July 1, 2006.
- (2) Six to serve until July 1, 2007.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman shall be elected by the commission for a term of one year and no member shall serve more than two consecutive terms as chairman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission members shall serve without compensation, except for reimbursement for expenses in accordance with the guidelines of the entity that they represent. Legislative members shall receive the per diem and expenses as provided for legislators attending interim committee meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall:

- (1) Develop strategies and programs, including community outreach and public-

private partnerships, designed to:

(a) Raise public awareness of critical men's health and wellness issues, including those health problems which disproportionately affect men and boys, and the role of paternal influence in the family.

(b) Encourage the participation of men and boys in healthy behaviors, academic achievement, and family involvement.

(c) Educate Louisiana's men and boys on the benefits of regular physician check-ups, early detection and preventive screening tests, and healthy lifestyle practices.

(2) Organize community workshops to identify issues affecting men's health and family involvement.

(3) Monitor state and federal policy and legislation that may affect the areas of men's health and family involvement.

(4) Recommend assistance, services, and policy changes that will further the goals of the commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall meet as necessary and shall report to the joint Senate and House committees on health and welfare prior to each legislative session, beginning in 2005.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES