

**Bobby Jindal**  
GOVERNOR



**Alan Levine**  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of the Secretary

March 31, 2010

The Honorable Joel T. Chaisson, II, President  
Louisiana State Senate  
P.O. Box 94183, Capitol Station  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9183

Dear President Chaisson:

In response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 184 (HCR 184) of the 2009 Regular Session, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) submits the enclosed report. HCR No. 184 urges and requests DHH and the Department of Education (DOE) to study jointly the feasibility and advisability of funding more school nurse positions through the Medicaid program.

The bureau of health services financing (Medicaid) within DHH and DOE are available to discuss the enclosed report and recommendations with you at your convenience. Please contact Don Gregory, interim Medicaid director, at (225) 342-1491 or Patrick Dobard with DOE at (225) 342-2573 with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Levine".

Alan Levine  
Secretary

Enclosures

**Bobby Jindal**  
GOVERNOR



**Alan Levine**  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of the Secretary

March 31, 2010

The Honorable Jim Tucker, Speaker  
Louisiana State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 94062, Capitol Station  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9062

Dear Speaker Tucker:

In response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 184 (HCR 184) of the 2009 Regular Session, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) submits the enclosed report. HCR No. 184 urges and requests DHH and the Department of Education (DOE) to study jointly the feasibility and advisability of funding more school nurse positions through the Medicaid program.

The bureau of health services financing (Medicaid) within DHH and DOE are available to discuss the enclosed report and recommendations with you at your convenience. Please contact Don Gregory, interim Medicaid director, at (225) 342-1491 or Patrick Dobard with DOE at (225) 342-2573 with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Levine".

Alan Levine  
Secretary

Enclosures

**Bobby Jindal**  
GOVERNOR



**Alan Levine**  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of the Secretary

March 31, 2010

The Honorable Willie L. Mount, Chairwoman  
Senate Health and Welfare Committee  
Louisiana State Senate  
P.O. Box 94183, Capitol Station  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9183

Dear Chairwoman Mount:

In response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 184 (HCR 184) of the 2009 Regular Session, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) submits the enclosed report. HCR No. 184 urges and requests DHH and the Department of Education (DOE) to study jointly the feasibility and advisability of funding more school nurse positions through the Medicaid program.

The bureau of health services financing (Medicaid) within DHH and DOE are available to discuss the enclosed report and recommendations with you and the members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. Please contact Don Gregory, interim Medicaid director, at (225) 342-1491 or Patrick Dobard with DOE at (225) 342-2573 with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Levine".

Alan Levine  
Secretary

Enclosures

**Bobby Jindal**  
GOVERNOR



**Alan Levine**  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of the Secretary

March 31, 2010

The Honorable Kay Katz, Chairwoman  
House Health and Welfare Committee  
Louisiana State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 44486, Capitol Station  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4486

Dear Chairwoman Katz:

In response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 184 (HCR 184) of the 2009 Regular Session, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) submits the enclosed report. HCR No. 184 urges and requests DHH and the Department of Education (DOE) to study jointly the feasibility and advisability of funding more school nurse positions through the Medicaid program.

The bureau of health services financing (Medicaid) within DHH and DOE are available to discuss the enclosed report and recommendations with you and the members of the House Health and Welfare Committee. Please contact Don Gregory, interim Medicaid director, at (225) 342-1491 or Patrick Dobard with DOE at (225) 342-2573 with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Levine".

Alan Levine  
Secretary

Enclosures

**Bobby Jindal**  
GOVERNOR



**Alan Levine**  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of the Secretary

March 31, 2010

The Honorable Ben Nevers, Chair  
Senate Education Committee  
Louisiana State Senate  
P.O. Box 94183, Capitol Station  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9183

Dear Chairman Nevers:

In response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 184 (HCR 184) of the 2009 Regular Session, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) submits the enclosed report. HCR No. 184 urges and requests DHH and the Department of Education (DOE) to study jointly the feasibility and advisability of funding more school nurse positions through the Medicaid program.

The bureau of health services financing (Medicaid) within DHH and DOE are available to discuss the enclosed report and recommendations with you and the members of the Senate Education Committee. Please contact Don Gregory, interim Medicaid director, at (225) 342-1491 or Patrick Dobard with DOE at (225) 342-2573 with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Levine".

Alan Levine  
Secretary

Enclosures

**Bobby Jindal**  
GOVERNOR



**Alan Levine**  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of the Secretary

March 31, 2010

The Honorable Austin Badon, Chairman  
House Education Committee  
Louisiana State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 44486, Capitol Station  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4486

Dear Chairman Badon:

In response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 184 (HCR 184) of the 2009 Regular Session, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) submits the enclosed report. HCR No. 184 urges and requests DHH and the Department of Education (DOE) to study jointly the feasibility and advisability of funding more school nurse positions through the Medicaid program.

The bureau of health services financing (Medicaid) within DHH and DOE are available to discuss the enclosed report and recommendations with you and the members of the House Education Committee. Please contact Don Gregory, interim Medicaid director, at (225) 342-1491 or Patrick Dobard with DOE at (225) 342-2573 with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Levine".

Alan Levine  
Secretary

Enclosures

# MEDICAID FUNDING OF SCHOOL NURSE POSITIONS

---

REPORT PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO HCR  
184 OF THE 2009 REGULAR SESSION

MARCH 2010

**Contact:**

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals  
Bureau of Health Services Financing  
Lois Lockett  
628 N. 4th Street, 7th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
225-342-4818  
[lois.lockett@la.gov](mailto:lois.lockett@la.gov)

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

House Concurrent Resolution 184 was enacted in the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature. This resolution urges the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and the Department of Education (DOE) to jointly study the feasibility of utilizing Medicaid funds to finance more school nurse positions.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) funding regulations prohibit state Medicaid programs from directly funding nursing positions in schools. However, Medicaid is allowed to reimburse school systems for services rendered by nurses to Medicaid-eligible children who require nursing services as outlined on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a law developed to ensure children with disabilities throughout the nation receive the services necessary for academic success, requires all IEPs be designed to meet each child's unique educational needs in the "least restrictive environment." School districts may then have access to revenue streams that could potentially fund additional nurse positions.

The Department is also considering a number of other Medicaid funding initiatives that may permit Medicaid to reimburse schools for the health care services its medical staff provides students, regardless of their IEP status.



---

## REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

---

Medicaid is currently using its Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Health Services Program to reimburse school districts that provide certain health care services to Medicaid-enrolled children. These services are provided through IDEA, and include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech/language therapy, audiology and various psychological therapy services. Medicaid only covers health care services included in the student's IEP; enrolled school districts are reimbursed at cost and the schools certify the state Medicaid match.

The Department's Medicaid staff researched which services are covered through this program in other states and determined nursing services should be included in the IDEA. However, Sec. 5001 (g)(2) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) states that Louisiana's Medicaid program would risk losing its ARRA funding, which totals more than \$1 billion, if it were to expand the services paid by certified public expenditures. To maintain those funds, the EPSDT Health Services Program would not implement the additional services after ARRA's funding period, which is scheduled to end 12/31/10. The Department is currently preparing all documents necessary to amend Louisiana's Medicaid State Plan. The documents will be submitted to CMS, and, if approved, Louisiana's Medicaid program will cover services provided by nurses and social workers.

The Department is also considering other initiatives that would allow Medicaid to reimburse schools for providing health care services to students regardless of their IEP status. According to DOE, only about 12 percent of all students in Louisiana public schools have an IEP, these initiatives would have a tremendous impact on the state as Medicaid would cover services for more of Louisiana's students. The project may include both primary and preventative services as well as some mental health and dental services. The Department's Medicaid staff is working with locally and nationally recognized consultants to consider the feasibility of these projects, and is looking at mechanisms that could draw down the federal Medicaid matching funds for health services using state and local funds that local school boards are already spending.

---

## CONCLUSION

---

Louisiana's Medicaid program is moving forward with its plan to expand services provided through the IDEA program. The Department would like increase the health services covered by the EPSDT Health Services Program for Medicaid reimbursement. Because ARRA limits the way in which states may spend its funding, the Department will seek CMS's approval at the end of the ARRA spending period. The Medicaid staff is also focusing on initiatives that will expand services to students who do not have an IEP, and the feasibility evaluation process is ongoing. Medicaid's staff will work with DOE's staff to ensure the scope of services covered is aligned with the services provided by school nurses, and to maximize the funding paid to school systems that provide health care to Medicaid recipients.

---

## ATTACHMENT

---

HCR 184 of the 2009 Regular Session

**ENROLLED**

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Department of Education to study jointly the feasibility and advisability of funding more school nurse positions through the Medicaid program and to report their study findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education prior to the beginning of the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, there are approximately sixty thousand registered nurses in the United States public school system who care for more than fifty-two million students; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that school districts with adequate nursing coverage have fewer absences, higher test scores, and a decreased drop-out rate; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of students enter schools with chronic health conditions that require management during the school day; and

WHEREAS, school nurses contribute to the health and well-being of all students and school staff by offering health information, health instruction, and quality health services; and

WHEREAS, the school nurse has a crucial role in the seamless provision of comprehensive health services and coordinated care to students, and comprehensive and coordinated health care is necessary to ensure that Louisiana's children are as healthy as possible so that they may succeed in school.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Department of Education to study jointly the feasibility and advisability of funding more school nurse positions through the Medicaid program and to report their study findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee

HCR NO. 184

**ENROLLED**

on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education prior to the beginning of the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals and the superintendent of the Department of Education.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE