



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing

February 1, 2019

The Honorable Frank A. Hoffmann  
Chairman, House Committee on Health and Welfare  
204 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite A  
West Monroe, LA 71291

The Honorable Fred H. Mills, Jr.  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare  
1010 Main Street  
Parks, LA 70582

The Honorable J. Cameron Henry, Jr.  
Chairman, Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget  
1539 Metairie Road, Suite A  
Metairie, LA 70005

**Re: Act 710 of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session**

Dear Honorable Chairs:

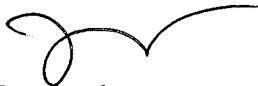
I am writing to inform you of a delay in our publication of the first quarterly report required by Act 710 of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session. Act 710 requires the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to produce an initial report containing measures enumerated in the Act and to consult with stakeholders to develop measures to be included in the ongoing quarterly reports. During the course of generating the initial report, which is available on [www.ldh.la.gov/legisreports](http://www.ldh.la.gov/legisreports), LDH, its contracted partner Burns & Associates and stakeholders identified several opportunities for improving upon the measures prescribed by the legislation.

Because of the complex nature of the Medicaid program, the process of gathering, understanding, and interpreting data can be a lengthy process of working through definitional discrepancies and multiple iterations of data submission and review. While we have been working diligently to produce these reports timely, we have experienced delays related to the development of new, specialized reports designed to provide insight into areas of stakeholder concern; the time required for our managed care organizations to develop report coding responsive to our requests; and the validation and interpretation of reported data.

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We are committed to producing accurate data that will be useful to the provider community, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as finalize this new reporting process. We have scheduled a meeting with stakeholders set for Friday, February 8, 2019 to finalize reporting elements based on their feedback, after which we will update the legislature on the target publication timeline. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jen Steele  
Medicaid Director

cc: Representative Jack McFarland