

1 WHEREAS, notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the House of Representatives
2 of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize that many rural and urban
3 communities of this state have a critical shortage of healthcare professionals and facilities;
4 therefore, the sense of this legislative body is that establishment of a freestanding emergency
5 department should be considered only for the most medically underserved areas of the state
6 where no other options for delivering health care exist, as demonstrated pursuant to a
7 thorough facility need review process; and

8 WHEREAS, if this state is to enhance access to care and improve the overall health
9 of our population, strategies for achieving these goals should include provision of greater
10 levels of primary care and development of a robust network of hospital-affiliated clinics in
11 underserved areas rather than establish a new type of licensed healthcare facility that
12 provides costly and potentially unnecessary services.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
14 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and
15 Hospitals not to establish freestanding emergency departments as a type of licensed
16 healthcare facility in this state unless an overwhelming need for such a facility exists in a
17 medically needy community, as demonstrated and documented by a thorough facility need
18 review process.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES