

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 161

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Kenneth Joseph Cochran, president and chief executive officer of Opelousas General Health System in Opelousas, Louisiana, upon being recognized by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA), the American Hospital Association (AHA), and Healthcare Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) for his leadership at the hospital and the entire health system.

WHEREAS, Dr. Kenneth Cochran holds a doctor of science degree in healthcare leadership (DSc.), is clinically trained as a Registered Nurse (RN), is a fellow of the American College of Health Executives (FACHE), and is, since July 1, 2015, the president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Opelousas General Health System; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Cochran's more than twenty years of healthcare leadership experience includes fifteen years of hospital leadership as president and CEO of River Valley Health Partners in East Liverpool, Ohio, and, prior to that, he was CEO of Cibola General Hospital in Grants, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, Dr. Cochran is one of only two healthcare leaders who were recognized by these national healthcare leadership organizations and only sixty individuals were recognized nationally; and

WHEREAS, the recognition highlights leaders who possess extensive experience in healthcare management, demonstrating their commitment to providing high quality, accessible care to rural populations, but also who involve themselves in economic nonprofit organizations and community and state organizations; and

WHEREAS, the NRHA, AHA, and HIMSS look beyond the leadership of the hospital where these healthcare executives are employed, and require attention to the surrounding community and state by involving themselves in chambers of commerce and state hospital associations, exhibiting a broader scope of influence than that indicated by the mere leadership of a rural hospital; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cochran is deeply involved in his community and his parish, serving as the president of the Rotary Club of Opelousas Sunrise and chairman of the St. Landry Chamber of Commerce; he is a committee member of the St. Landry Parish Strategic Planning Committee, a member of Vision St. Landry, and the Louisiana State University at Eunice advisory board; and

WHEREAS, at the state level, Dr. Cochran was recently appointed to the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) board of directors, is a trustee of the LHA's research and education foundation, and is a member of the legislative review and policy committee; he has been recognized nationally by the American College of Healthcare Executives with their Regent's Award and Early Career Healthcare Executives; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cochran has led Opelousas General's two hundred nine bed, two-campus facility at a time when all the indicators signaled a dubious future for the facility, with negative revenue and fewer admissions; however, he reshaped the system such that revenues grew significantly and he expanded the health system by building an eleven thousand square foot cancer center, bringing twenty new physicians into the healthcare system as a whole; and

WHEREAS, since 1957, Opelousas General Health System has been dedicated to providing quality healthcare through its high standards and strong commitment to serving the rural area surrounding Opelousas, and while serving as the area's referral medical center, advanced its commitment to state-of-the-art technology; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Cochran, DSc., RN, FACHE brought experience in the rural hospital industry to his leadership at Opelousas General Health System; his expertise gained through both education and experience, but, perhaps most importantly, he brought a commitment to providing exceptional rural healthcare and a belief that investing in people and technology would best serve the people who expect and depend on exceptional and accessible healthcare.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Kenneth Joseph Cochran, president and CEO of Opelousas General Health System in Opelousas, Louisiana, upon being recognized by the NRHA, the AHA, and HIMSS for his leadership at Opelousas General Health System and hospital.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kenneth Cochran, DSc., RN, FACHE, and president and CEO of Opelousas General Health System.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE