

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY SENATORS FRED MILLS AND PEACOCK

A RESOLUTION

To designate the year 2020 as the "Year of the Nurse" in honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, a visionary nurse and leader, and in recognition of the vital role nurses and midwives play in providing health care services worldwide.

WHEREAS, in 2019, the World Health Assembly, the International Council of Nurses, and the American Nurses Association designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse, in grateful recognition of the vital role these health care providers play in the health and well-being of Americans and the citizens of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in January 2020, for the eighteenth consecutive year, the Gallop poll indicated that the nursing profession was voted the most trustworthy and ethical profession of all professions, an honor well-deserved and disputed by few; and

WHEREAS, the nurse's essential role in care coordination improves patient care quality, safety, satisfaction, and health outcomes and decreases costs across patient populations and health care settings; and

WHEREAS, professional nursing is a crucial component of health care delivery systems, especially in times of crisis, such as in the aftermath of natural disasters, including hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike, and, currently during the coronavirus pandemic when nurses have worked selflessly and tirelessly on the frontlines, at times, without adequate personal protection to care for patients with COVID-19 despite the risk to self and family; and

WHEREAS, nurses serve people across their life span from their very first moments of life to their last, in all life stages, and in a wide variety of settings, including in schools as school nurses, in higher education as educators, in communities as public health nurses, on military bases around the world, in hospitals and field hospitals as military nurses, and in health care facilities at the bedside, as nurse leaders, as case managers, in quality development, infection control, and as mental health nurses in a variety of settings; and

WHEREAS, registered nurses with advanced degrees and licensure serve the public in roles such as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, and nurse midwives, all playing a key role in the future of health care, often as primary care providers, and are at the forefront of providing preventive care services to the public in diagnosing and treating illness, managing chronic disease, and the like; and

WHEREAS, nearly sixty-eight thousand registered nurses, including those with a bachelor of science degree, advanced practice registered nurses and sixteen thousand licensed practical nurses represent the largest groups of health care professionals in Louisiana and their clinical expertise has expanded critical access to care, especially in rural settings; and

WHEREAS, throughout the two hundred years since the birth of Florence Nightingale, the nursing profession has adapted and changed its practices to better serve and to increase positive health outcomes for their patients, answering the call in peacetime and in war, in the face of natural disasters, and an unprecedented world pandemic, as well as the day-to-day health care crises faced by all, and the nurses have met every challenge and bettered the lives of their patients, even at risk of their own health security and that of their families, bringing honor upon their profession and deserving the thanks of all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate the year 2020 as the "Year of the Nurse" in honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, a visionary nurse and leader, and in recognition of the vital role nurses and midwives play in providing health care services worldwide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners, and the executive director of the Louisiana State Nurses Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE