

1 breakthroughs, the polio vaccine, and other monumental transformations, the mission of
2 Shriners Children's has remained the same; and

3 WHEREAS, from their humble beginnings of treating the effects of polio, they now
4 provide specialized care for children with orthopedic conditions, cleft lips and palates, burns,
5 and spinal cord injuries in 21 locations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, Shriners Shreveport has provided vital care to a global population of
7 more than one hundred thirty-five thousand, regardless of the families' ability to pay; and

8 WHEREAS, the system overall has treated more than one million four hundred
9 thousand children; and

10 WHEREAS, every year Shriners Hospitals for Children selects two national patient
11 ambassadors to represent the healthcare system's patients; and

12 WHEREAS, one of Shreveport's patients was selected in 2016-2017 for this high
13 honor, Karolina Nogues; and

14 WHEREAS, Karolina Nogues of Slidell spent the year sharing her story of
15 perseverance in the face of adversity and how Shriners made a dramatic, life-changing
16 difference in her life; and

17 WHEREAS, Karolina was born in 2000 with a significant limb-length discrepancy
18 involving her left leg that required Karolina to wear a shoe lift that helped compensate for
19 the difference for the first five years of her life; and

20 WHEREAS, her family searched for a better solution after some physicians
21 suggested amputation and Shriners was the answer; and

22 WHEREAS, she began the painful, tedious lengthening treatment at age seven that
23 would take nine years and require multiple surgeries and the use of an external fixator that
24 lengthened her leg incrementally by seven inches; and

25 WHEREAS, now in her last year of undergraduate studies, she is majoring in
26 forensic psychology and applying to graduate schools and is a member of the Western
27 Equestrian Team at University of Central Florida; and

28 WHEREAS, she is just one of the many success stories of Shriners in Shreveport
29 which serves six states.

30 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

