

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY SENATOR BROOME

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Willie F. Hawkins for forty-two years of dedicated public service.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Willie F. Hawkins for his forty-two years of dedicated public service and wish
3 him well in his retirement.

4 WHEREAS, Willie F. Hawkins has provided forty-two years of distinguished service
5 to the citizens of Louisiana and Baton Rouge in the areas of higher education, health care,
6 and social services; and

7 WHEREAS, since 1984, he has served in several high level state health care
8 administrative positions including sixteen years with the LSU System; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1978, Willie Hawkins began his public service as the Executive
10 Director of the Eden Park Community Health Center and also served as the Administrator
11 of East Baton Rouge Parish Health Care Services; and

12 WHEREAS, early in his professional career, he served in several not-for-profit
13 positions in the Baton Rouge community including Director of Health and Social Services
14 for Community Advancements, Inc., and Director of the Young Adult Offender Program for
15 the Community Corrections and Rehabilitation Center; and

16 WHEREAS, Willie Hawkins was the recipient of the two and one-half year
17 prestigious Ford Foundation Fellowship Award in 1974; and

18 WHEREAS, he was named Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor at LSU

1 Health Sciences Center New Orleans-Health Care Services Division and CEO of the Medical
2 Center of Louisiana in New Orleans in July, 1999, having previously served as the Executive
3 Assistant to the Vice Chancellor at LSU Health Sciences Center from July, 1997 to July,
4 1999; and

5 WHEREAS, prior to his service with LSU, Willie Hawkins served as the
6 Confidential Assistant to the CEO of the Louisiana Health Care Authority from November,
7 1993 to August, 1995, and January, 1996 to July 1997; and

8 WHEREAS, under the Louisiana Health Care Authority, he served as the Acting
9 Administrator of Earl K. Long Medical Center from August, 1995 to January, 1996, and as
10 Assistant Administrator from April, 1984 to November, 1993; and

11 WHEREAS, Willie Hawkins graduated from Southern University in 1965 with a
12 bachelor of science degree in Business Administration and served as a Vista Volunteer at the
13 Columbia University School of Social Work in 1966 and 1967; and

14 WHEREAS, he is a veteran of the United States Army having served with the
15 Military Assistance Command in Vietnam; and

16 WHEREAS, Willie F. Hawkins retires on July 5, 2013, from LSU as the Director of
17 Institutional Relations, a position he has held since February, 2004; and

18 WHEREAS, he can be found on any given day, at any given hour, navigating patients
19 through the often complicated Louisiana health care system; and

20 WHEREAS, Willie Hawkins has not only provided professional administrative
21 leadership in public healthcare for many years, he also personally ensured that thousands of
22 patients were able to get medical appointments and emergency treatment regardless of their
23 ability to pay; and

24 WHEREAS, there is not a single local official of city or state government, a local
25 minister, a city-parish department head, or a local community leader that Willie Hawkins
26 does not know on a first-hand basis; and

27 WHEREAS, he provided invaluable legislative assistance on behalf of LSU by
28 keeping "watch" from a key seat on the House floor; and

29 WHEREAS, Willie Hawkins was extremely instrumental in securing from the Brown
30 family the donation of property that make up strategic parts of the new medical clinic and

1 urgent care center campus in North Baton Rouge; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2011, while providing information to a legislator on a piece of
3 legislation vital to LSU and attempting simultaneously to navigate a steep staircase in the
4 Capitol, he fell and broke his hip sidelining him but not his telephone dialing finger for the
5 remainder of the session; and

6 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is grateful for the dedicated and professional
7 public service of Willie F. Hawkins and further recognizes his selfless contribution to the
8 health care of Louisiana residents.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
10 does hereby commend Willie F. Hawkins for his forty-two years of dedicated public service
11 and wish him well in his retirement.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
13 Willie F. Hawkins.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

Broome

SR No. 119

Commends Willie F. Hawkins for his 42 years of dedicated public service and wishes him well in his retirement.