

1 Catholic Forensic League Tournament; and

2 WHEREAS, during the rest of her high school years, Elise also qualified for national
3 competition at the National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament, the
4 Glenbrook Tournament, and the Harvard National Forensics Tournament in both
5 extemporaneous speaking and congressional debate; and

6 WHEREAS, using the skills she learned in speech and debate, Elise found multiple
7 ways to give back to her community, including with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council
8 in Lafayette, and through monthly meetings with the mayor starting her junior year, Elise
9 was able to comment on issues of importance to youth in Lafayette Parish to the mayor with
10 other like-minded peers; and

11 WHEREAS, beginning her senior year, Elise was a member of the Louisiana
12 Legislative Youth Advisory Council which opportunity furthered her interest in solving
13 issues for youth, but this time on a statewide scale; and

14 WHEREAS, in her local community, Elise found a way to give back through being
15 on the marketing committee for a charity music festival that St. Thomas More's junior class
16 puts on each year called "Hopefest", and made numerous phone calls, knocked on doors, and
17 networked to help raise money for Options, the special needs program at St. Thomas More
18 and Healing House, a safe place for children who are grieving a major loss in their life due
19 to death; through these experiences, Elise's interest in social justice and political awareness
20 continued to grow; and

21 WHEREAS, despite being a part of these activities and many others, Elise
22 maintained a 3.8 GPA throughout her high school career and, in addition to being selected
23 as a St. Thomas More Top Cat award recipient two times, was also highlighted as a
24 Breakfast of Champions recipient, a State Foreign Languages Festival honoree, a Louisiana
25 High School Speech League Impromptu Speaking runner-up state champion, a Writes of
26 Spring (Poetry) Award recipient, a State Rally Girls Vocal Solo (High Voices) superior
27 rating recipient, St. Thomas More's La. Girls State delegate, and a Tulane Book Award
28 recipient, and, in her senior year, earned a National Beta Club Scholarship and was honored
29 with a place on the Louisiana All State Congressional Debate Team; and

30 WHEREAS, Elise will be attending the Catholic University of America in

1 Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2016 where she plans to double-major in Politics and Media
2 Studies with aspirations of working on Capitol Hill in the near future; and

3 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation created the
4 Women of Excellence Awards to recognize and honor extraordinary women of excellence
5 across the state for their outstanding achievements and contributions; and

6 WHEREAS, recipients of the Women of Excellence Awards exhibit characteristics
7 of integrity and professionalism, personify excellence in their area of specialty, and are
8 committed to community service to better society as a whole; and

9 WHEREAS, for 2016, there are four categories for the Women of Excellence
10 Awards: College Women of Excellence, High School Women of Excellence, Louisiana Hero
11 of Excellence, and Nonprofit of Excellence; and

12 WHEREAS, the recipients of the 2016 Women of Excellence Awards are being
13 recognized at the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation's Women of
14 Excellence Awards & Scholarships Ceremony and Reception on Tuesday, May 24, 2016;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Elise Marie LaFleur has been named a recipient of a 2016 Women of
17 Excellence Award in the category of High School Women of Excellence and also is a
18 recipient of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship for her
19 accomplishments and personification of excellence in integrity, character, academics,
20 leadership, and community service; and

21 WHEREAS, Elise Marie LaFleur merits a sincere and heartfelt measure of
22 commendation for her dedication to excellence and her outstanding accomplishments, and
23 it is appropriate for the Legislature of Louisiana to commend Elise Marie LaFleur upon her
24 receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's
25 Caucus Foundation and of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
27 commend Elise Marie LaFleur upon her receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from
28 the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation in the category of High School
29 Women of Excellence and upon her receipt of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus
30 Foundation Scholarship; does hereby recognize and record for posterity her singular

