

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATORS THOMPSON, MILKOVICH, PEACOCK, RISER, TARVER AND
WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To express support for the public-private partnerships that operate Louisiana's safety net hospitals and deliver vital health care services throughout the state.

WHEREAS, a reduction in federal funding for the Louisiana Medicaid program was included in a transportation bill passed by the United States Congress and signed into law on July 6, 2012, which resulted in a net decrease of over eight hundred fifty million dollars in the Medicaid budget of this state in state fiscal year 2012-2013; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this reduction in Medicaid funding, the Department of Health and Hospitals addressed the shortfall by eliminating funding for state hospitals operated by the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (LSU); and

WHEREAS, the state has developed public-private partnerships since 2012 for the delivery of health services at LSU hospital facilities which are now operated by private health care enterprises, with the terms and conditions for such service delivery set forth in cooperative endeavor agreements among the state and private providers; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the public-private partnerships is to ensure multiple points of community access and the delivery of cost-effective medical care for all Louisiana citizens; and

WHEREAS, private providers that broaden access, choice, and cost-effective care in a community are the ideal partners for these former charity hospitals in their mission of serving the health care needs of the people of this state; and

WHEREAS, the availability of multiple health care providers in a community drives down health care costs, increases choices among patients for care, and improves the quality of care and health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, in terms of fiscal and public health policy, it is in the best interest of this state to continue or initiate public-private hospital partnerships which enhance access to consumer-centered health care and cost-effective health services delivery.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express support for the public-private partnerships that operate Louisiana's safety net hospitals and deliver vital health care services throughout the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby declare that the best interests of this state are served through partnerships for operation of Louisiana's safety net hospitals with partners that increase the number and availability of health care providers in a given community or market.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the commissioner of administration.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE